



THE INDEPENDENT

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LONDON
TRIUMPH**

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BUT WILL HE BE BACK?**

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**EDUCATION +
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Corrupt police can't be touched

Exclusive

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

The chief constable of the country's second biggest police force has corrupt officers working for him but is powerless to sack them.

Edward Crew, head of West Midlands Police, said that some of his staff would have been automatically dismissed for dishonesty if they worked for a supermarket, but he was forced to keep them on because of protective practices.

"There are people working in this force that wouldn't be employed by Sainsbury's," he told *The Independent*. His concerns are shared by other chiefs throughout the country and the police complaints watchdog, who are urging the Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to change the law.

Mr Crew, and fellow chief constables in England and Wales, have asked Mr Straw to reduce the standard of proof to allow forces to sack police officers considered corrupt or grossly incompetent. At present, it is extremely difficult to remove anyone - last year only 98 were

sacked. To sack a police officer, evidence that proves "beyond reasonable doubt" that they are guilty is needed - a far higher standard than in civil cases or industrial tribunals. Instant dismissals are also prevented except in the most exceptional cases.

Mr Crew said: "In Sainsbury's, if they have a man whose hand is caught in the till they will release [sack] them. I couldn't do this. I have to prosecute and prove it beyond reasonable doubt. There are a very small number of officers in this force, and in the police service nationally, who I suspect of having been involved in serious breaches

in the criminal law, where it's not possible to obtain evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt they were involved in that behaviour."

He continued: "I have officers in this force who should not be serving police officers. If we were assessing their standards of behaviour to the standard required of other employees, these people would not be working."

He added: "I have officers who have been to court and have been found not guilty of criminal offences by a jury and they continue to serve in this force because I cannot, in the current arrangement, [use] evi-

dence that was given to the court."

Earlier this week, the West Midlands Police became the second force to set up a confidential internal telephone hotline for staff to pass on information about suspected corrupt officers. The call for reform of the system by Mr Crew, and the Association of Chief Police Officers has the support of the independent Police Complaints Authority (PCA). The Home Secretary has agreed to re-examine the issue.

The Police Federation, which represents all ranks below superintendent - the vast bulk of the 127,000 officers in England and Wales - is furious at the action by chief constables and has accused them of reneging on early promises.

Sir Paul Condon, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has already criticised what he believes is a growing trend among police officers accused of serious corruption and malpractice of avoiding disciplinary hearings by taking sick leave and retiring on grounds of ill health with index-linked benefits.

Mr Crew is also critical of the "double jeopardy" system, whereby evidence used against a police officer in a criminal trial cannot be re-used at a disciplinary hearing. The Crown Prosecution Service has privately admitted that it sometimes fails to bring charges against a police officer because it fears a jury will acquit him or her and thereby deny an opportunity for the evidence to be heard at a disciplinary hearing.

Mr Crew also believes that the high level of proof prevents him from sacking some officers who he believes have sexually harassed female colleagues.

Peter Moorhouse, chairman of the PCA, yesterday agreed that there are some corrupt officers who are being protected

by the system, but said they were a "small minority". A PCA spokesman said: "We sympathise with Mr Crew and would like to see changes to the system."

The Police Federation argues that the police need extra protection against malicious complaints. Ian Westwood, vice chairman of the federation, said: "If chief constables believe officers are corrupt they should be dealt with at court and sentenced to imprisonment. We are concerned that people will be got rid of without proper evidence just because someone suspects they are corrupt."

Bent coppers, page 9

BA threat to sue cabin crew union over strike

Randeep Ramesh and
Barrie Clement

British Airways last night got into a row with striking cabin crews. The company threatened to sue the union over the three-day strike which yesterday grounded almost 70 per cent of flights from Heathrow.

The airline described the strike as "unlawful", claiming that in the ballot for industrial action, 10 per cent more people voted than had been properly notified to the company.

Despite the loss of hundreds of services, BA said its contingency plans to deal with the strike were "going exactly to plan". The airline said it would announce 20 per cent more flights today, including some domestic services. However the Transport and General Workers' Union pointed out that with 1,500 cabin crew off sick and hundreds of staff staying at home, it was a hollow victory.

"BA claimed last week it would be business as usual. Well, it certainly did not do much business," said Michael Coleman, the union's branch secretary.

Mervyn Walker, the airline's head of human resources, said the union seemed to have balked staff who were either not members of the union or not BA employees.

Mr Walker said BA was consulting lawyers to recover "costs incurred by the action" and was also considering an injunction. The airline would not speculate on the cost of the stoppage - which wiped 135 flights from BA's Heathrow timetable. However, experts estimate that Heathrow alone generates nearly £17m of revenue a day for BA.

The union pointed out that the 1,000 members which BA claimed had voted illegally would not have made a differ-

ence. "The vote was overwhelmingly for industrial action. It was 5,000 to 1,700 for," said a spokesman.

George Ryde, the union's chief negotiator, argued that while the TGWU could be sued for £250,000 if the ballot was flawed, the legal process would prolong the uncertainty and add to the £200m already forfeited in lost bookings. Mr Ryde denied the company's threat of legal action. "They should either put up or shut up," he said.

Senior managers yesterday sent out conflicting messages about the BA's willingness to compromise. While they said publicly that cabin crew would have to accept a pay and conditions package already imposed on other staff, other sources were indicating that there was a "glimmer of a chance" that it could be amended. The sources said the company would need to hear directly from BASSA, the transport union's cabin crew branch, on its proposals to save £42m - the issue at the heart of the dispute.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, who is thought to be working behind the scenes for a settlement, called for a boycott of BA, which he said was attempting to break the union.

More than 15,000 passengers were left with long delays, while others were forced to use other airlines. Heathrow bore the brunt of the stoppage. More than 50 per cent of long-haul flights were cancelled and 62 per cent of European services were cut. The strike is set to continue today and Friday. But BA's troubles are not over, as David Hyde, the airline's director of security, explained: "Many of our planes around the world will be out of position by the weekend and we'll have to get them back."



Four-year-old Josh waiting with his parents at Heathrow for a transfer to Air Canada from BA. Outside, cabin crews form a picket line



Photographs: Brian Hams

Cool Britain: Jane Austen triumphs again

Kathy Marks

It is a subject that has always puzzled literary scholars. What possessed Jane Austen, that most precise of writers, to refer to apple trees blossoming in June in her masterpiece, *Emma*?

The uncharacteristic slip has become known as the novelist's famous literary error. But it is now being suggested that Austen's description of the orchard, far from being a mistake, derived from her acute powers of scientific observation. Furthermore, it reflects just the kind of "weird weather" Britain has been experiencing this summer.

The contention is made by Euan Nisbet, professor of geology at Royal Holloway College, London University, who has reviewed the book in the latest edition of *Nature* magazine.

Noting that it was written in 1814-15, Professor Nisbet points out that according to climatic records kept by Luke Howard, a contemporary of Austen's, the summer of 1814 was exceptionally cool.

Here may lie the clue to her reference to apple trees in unseasonably late bloom when *Emma* and her party make their celebrated expedition to Box Hill, in Surrey, shortly before Midsummer's Day, he suggests.

But Professor Nisbet goes even fur-

ther. Not only did Austen accurately record a rare phenomenon of nature that she had witnessed, he speculates, but she may have actually met Howard herself.

Howard was a chemist, a campaigner against slavery and author of the, *The Climate of London* (1833), a founding text of meteorology. He invented the terms *cumulus*, *cirrus* and *stratus* for the clouds.

On a warm evening in July 1813, he paid a visit to friends in Alton, in Hampshire. As he travelled through Chawton, a neighbouring village where Austen lived, he would have passed before the novelist's window.

Professor Nisbet says it seems likely that they met that day. Both Howard and Austen - "his equal in meticulous observation" - had links with the local banking community. After that period, he muses, the novelist's letters seem "full of weather".

Professor Nisbet enthuses about Austen's success in blending scientific knowledge and literary skills. Meteorology shapes *Emma*, reflecting the twists and turns of the plot, he says. Drizzling rain signals impending misery; when the weather turns hot and sultry, romance and danger loom. Perhaps the novel is an allegory on nature itself, he suggests.



QUICKLY

Booming Britain
Dixons, the electrical retailer, announced a £100m, 3,000-job expansion and £200m profits, as drinks group Allied Domeq joined the boom bandwagon with a 4,000-job plan. Page 24

Ailing NHS
Patients who fail to turn up cost the NHS £500m a year, it was disclosed, as ministers published the fourth annual set of performance tables, which show pressures growing. Page 8

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FORGET
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news

significant shorts

Parents take seatbelt campaign to Europe

Campaigners for improved safety on school coaches and minibuses are to seek European Commission backing in an attempt to get international action on seatbelt standards. As it was confirmed yesterday that the French coach which crashed on Monday killing three British teenagers had no seatbelts, Pat Harris, of the Belt Up School Kids (Buck) campaign, said parents needed to know that their children were secure when they went abroad.

Buck is preparing to go to Brussels for a series of meetings on coach safety being organised by Neil Kinnoch, the European transport commissioner. The campaign wants European legislation to make seatbelts compulsory in all coaches and minibuses being used by children. In the interim, it wants the British legislation which made it compulsory for coaches and minibuses carrying children to have belts extended to cover British children travelling outside the country. "Just because they have left UK soil shouldn't mean you can abandon the requirement," Mrs Harris said.

David Bowes, the headmaster of St James's High School in Bolton, Lancashire, which suffered the tragedy, said the school policy was to use vehicles that had seatbelts, as was required by law in Britain. But the hired British coach broke down at the weekend and was replaced with a French one, driven by the same British driver. French coaches rarely have seatbelts. Louise Jury

Ancient surgical instruments found

New archaeological evidence suggests British doctors were carrying out sophisticated surgical operations 2,000 years ago. Excavations by Colchester Archaeological Trust and detailed research at the British Museum have identified a unique set of 13 surgical instruments which appear to have belonged to the personal doctor of a native British prince in the mid first-century AD.

The discovery is unique in that it is the first time archaeologists have found a set of ancient surgical instruments that are not of Roman manufacture. The three giant needles, two scalpels, a surgical saw, a pair of tweezers, two double-ended hooks, a pair of forceps, a spoon-like probe, and an anchor-shaped hook are Roman in concept, but not in their design. David Keys

Mandela fellowship at Oxford



There is to be a new fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies: the Nelson Mandela Fellowship. It was announced yesterday.

The South African President (pictured), who will visit Oxford tomorrow to give a lecture on "A new world order", has expressed his support for the centre's contribution to greater understanding between cultures and religion.

Dr Fargan Nizami, centre director, said: "An academic post at Oxford which bears the name of President Nelson Mandela provides important symbolic and practical support for that international dialogue between people of different cultures which is central to the centre's activities." Clare Garner

Cherie Booth in plea for gay rights

Barrister Cherie Booth QC made a heartfelt plea for equal rights for lesbians and homosexuals. The Prime Minister's wife went to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to condemn discrimination which she says contravenes European law. Ms Booth was representing 29-year-old Lisa Grant, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, a railway booking clerk with South-West Trains.

The company says Ms Grant's live-in lover Jill Percey cannot have travel concessions worth about £1,000-a-year because they are only available to husbands, wives and "common law opposite-sex" spouses of workers. Ms Booth told the court that the travel concessions were recognised as part of Ms Grant's pay. She was discriminated against because her predecessor in the same job – a man – was granted the travel concessions for his female partner.

But Patrick Elias QC, for the Government, refuted Ms Booth's argument, pointing out that there was no sex discrimination by South-West Trains, because a homosexual couple would have been treated the same way an interim "opinion" of the court's advocate-general will be delivered on 30 September, with the final verdict delivered next year.

Soup tureen fetches £815,000

An outstanding work by one of 18th-century England's leading silversmiths, which had been feared lost for decades, sold at auction yesterday for around twice its expected price. The 1750 George II soup tureen, in the shape of a turtle, was described as "the silver discovery of the decade" when it was found stored away at the back of a cupboard by owners who had no idea of its value. It fetched £815,500 after fierce bidding at Christie's of London, who had predicted a price of between £300,000 and £500,000. The tureen was uncovered by chance in the French city of Bordeaux during a routine valuation of house contents.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

people



Lesley Crouchman: Told by doctor she could not be pregnant (Photograph: James Horman)

Mother awarded £100,000 for baby she didn't want

A woman won more than £100,000 in damages yesterday after a judge ruled that a gynaecologist negligently led her to believe she could not be pregnant prior to her undergoing a sterilisation operation.

Lesley Crouchman, who was aged 35 at the time of the operation in 1991, and already had three children, was in fact already pregnant when she saw the gynaecologist, Michael Burke.

Mrs Crouchman, a Roman Catholic, discovered the pregnancy at 15 weeks, by which time it was too late for an early suction termination. After seeing her baby on a scan she felt unable to have the pregnancy terminated by induced labour. The child, Matthew, is now five.

Mr Justice Langley ruled on the evidence that Mr Burke, who had ethical objections to conducting terminations, had not been in a position to exclude the possibility of pregnancy, but had led Mrs Crouchman, who currently lives in China with her husband, a civil engineer, to believe that the possibility had been excluded because he was to conduct a D & C at the same time as the sterilisation. The D & C, however, was only partial, and intended to investigate menstrual irregularity.

Until now, the medical profession has generally regarded the risk that a woman might already be pregnant at a sterilisation as a remote risk which would not open practitioners to claims.

The medical negligence award to 41-year-old Mrs Crouchman included £102,521 for the cost of the upkeep of Matthew to the age of 21, and her own personal injury damages of £5,000.

In finding against Mr Burke, the judge stressed: "do not accept or intend that this conclusion should necessitate any change in clinical practice, radical or otherwise. The criticisms which I have made are ones of communication to this patient in the particular context, which I have held occurred."

After the judgment, Mrs Crouchman's lawyers said the case extended medical negligence liability to a sterilisation operation carried out when the woman has already conceived, unknown to herself or the gynaecologist.

They stressed that, until now, the medical profession had generally regarded the risk that a woman may already be pregnant at such an operation as a remote risk, and therefore delayed in pursuing a negligence claim. Lawyers for Mr Burke said they were considering an appeal.

IMMIGRATION

70,000 asylum applicants should be allowed to stay

The 70,000 asylum applicants whose applications or appeals are bogged down in the Home Office administration should be allowed to stay if it would be impractical or inhumane to remove them, the Government is urged in a report today.

The report, drawn up by the Asylum Rights Campaign, the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association and the law reform organisation Justice, says it will be otherwise impossible to create a leaner and more effective system.

The document, which has received a favourable reaction from Mike O'Brien, the Home Office minister, also calls for better initial processing of applications and a new decision-making "culture".

The call for applicants in the backlog to be allowed to stay is controversial, but the report cites precedents in Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands. In Britain, criteria should include length of time since application, humanitarian considerations and other connections with the UK.

Patricia Wynn Davies

SEISMOLOGY

California quake on hair-trigger

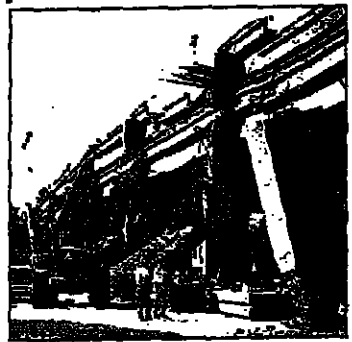
All of California lives in fear of the next movement of the infamous San Andreas fault. Now seismologists believe that another major earthquake could be triggered by small changes in pressure on the fault.

Chi-yeen Wang, of the University of California, in Berkeley, and Yogen Cai, of Peking University, write in the latest issue of *Nature* magazine that the fault – responsible for devastating earthquakes in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas (right) – is in a critical state. The two scientists carried out numerical simulations of the seismic cycle in the area, and say that the fault is sensitive to small changes in regional compression.

Increases in pressure may "lock" the fault, they say, making earth movements less likely. But decreases in pressure could release the locked segment, causing ruptures of the fault and sparking earthquakes.

They say that the source of pressure changes could be related to seismic movements in the coastal area.

Kathy Marks



MONEY

Travellers' cheques go plastic

A high-tech innovation could spell the end for travellers' cheques, according to American Express. The banking giant is conducting a pilot scheme involving an electronic version of its traditional travellers' cheques which takes the form of a plastic card "programmed" with foreign currency.

The company has chosen the UK for the trial, and the cards are being targeted at people visiting the US in the next few months.

Called "TravelFunds", the cards can store up to 10,000 US dollars and are bought in the same way as ordinary travellers' cheques. People pay for the amount of dollars they want on the card. The cards can be used in the US wherever American Express is welcome. People simply present them when making a purchase and sign the receipt, with no need to show identification.

The cards are refundable if lost or stolen and can also be used to get money from American Express cash machines.

BROADCASTING

Election TV proved a big turn-off

Fully 40 per cent of the electorate turned off or turned over when any coverage of the general election appeared on television, a new survey has found.

And while 56 per cent of viewers told the Independent Television Commission that they had got what they wanted from the TV's election coverage, many still felt there was too much of it. Those most likely to be unhappy with the coverage were women and first-time voters. Almost a third of respondents wanted to see more ordinary people and less of the party leaders.

Almost 60 per cent of those surveyed thought the reporting of poll results was unimportant while over 51 per cent thought analysis by political correspondents or pundits was irrelevant.

The ITC report also confirms that the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*, extended for the duration of the election, lost 20 per cent of its viewers, while *News at Ten* on ITV lost 7 per cent. Paul McCann

NATURE

Acacia trees' ingenious secret

A tree that employs guards in the form of aggressive soldier ants has revealed a remarkable new secret to British scientists. The relationship between ants and the Acacia tree in eastern Africa is one of nature's best known examples of co-evolution.

In return for food and shelter on the trees, the ants ward off hungry herbivores and perhaps even encroaching vegetation. But scientists have always been mystified by how bees and other "friendly" insect pollinators are able to get through the formidable ant defences.

Now researchers led by Pat Wilmer from St Andrew's University, Scotland and Graham Stone from Oxford University have discovered that young Acacia flowers appear to produce a volatile chemical signal at a crucial stage in their development that keeps the ants away, allowing pollinating insects to visit unmolested during this time.

The ants patrol young buds, and return to the flowers at a later stage to protect the developing seeds.

Gay playwright makes Yale an offer it can refuse

Yale University, the quintessential Ivy League crucible of American academe, rarely objects to offers of money from generous benefactors. It pauses, however, when the dollars involved come in a bright shade of pink.

This we learn from the unusual, and highly public spat that has broken out between it and one of its more famous – and certainly more controversial – alumni, the militantly gay playwright and novelist, Larry Kramer.

Mr Kramer, 62 – whose works include the acclaimed *The Normal Heart*, – has promised a gift to the university of several million dollars. As things stand, however, Yale is saying "thank you but, but no thank you".

The problem, it seems, are the conditions that Mr Kramer is attaching to his offer. His former place of learning – where, by the way, he was so unhappy as a student in the early Fifties that he was driven to attempted suicide – will get the money only if it promises certain things.

Specifically, he is insisting that Yale use the money either to establish a permanent course in gay studies, with a tenured professorship or to found a student centre on campus for the benefit of gay and lesbian students.



Putting Yale on the spot was probably the point of the offer in the first place. Mr Kramer has spent most of his life confronting the Establishment in his quest to improve the social lot of gays. In the early Eighties he founded Act Up, an organisation that campaigned for AIDS research.

His antagonist is the university Provost, Dr Alison Richard, an anthropologist. She accepts that Yale could use the money for gay studies, but balks at the permanent status of the arrangements sought by Mr Kramer.

"Larry Kramer is clearly a passionate advocate and a very creative writer," she told the *New York Times*. "But my task is not to honour or give in to passionate advocates' task is to figure out what is in Yale's interest."

David Osborne, New York

Harman is role model for MPs

New Labour's new women relax by watching football, Brookside or *This Life*, don't watch *EastEnders* and rarely have time to go to the cinema, claims a survey published today. The report, in *She* magazine, says they are having to juggle the hectic life of being an MP with childcare and cleaning.

The magazine spoke to 10 women MPs, most with families and most new MPs. Nannies are employed by some, but most have partners to look after their children.

Most look up to Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, as their political role models.

Many said the man they would most like to have dinner with would be Tony Blair – or their partners, as they did not see them often enough.

Gloucester MP Tess Kingham, 34, watches *Brookside* and *Coronation Street*, admires former Labour Cabinet minister Baroness Castle as her role model and would like to have dinner with the actor William Hurt.

Gisela Stuart, 41, the new Labour MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, lists Ms Harman, the Leader of the Commons, Ann Taylor, and the health minister Teresa Jewell as her role models and would like to have dinner with the late James Cameron.

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Britain lines up to fight for the soul of the countryside

The hunting lobby fires the first shot in what promises to be a bitter battle



Penny Little at home in Oxfordshire Photograph: John Lawrence

Louise Jury, Nicholas Schoon and Fran Abrams

At least 60,000 people are expected to gather in Hyde Park today in defence of hunting, but the London jamboree is just the first blow in what promises to be a bitter battle which could run for years.

The newly formed Countryside Alliance hopes that up to 100,000 people from all over Britain and Ireland will come to its mass rally staged to show the scale of early opposition to Labour MP Michael Foster's Private Member's Bill to ban fox hunting. Nearly 1,000 coaches, several trains and five aircraft have been chartered.

The crowds will hear speeches, including one from an unnamed British film star whose identity was being jealously guarded yesterday, and another from the Labour hunting peer Baroness Mallalieu.

Both pro and anti sides of the argument will try to enlist the support of celebrities, but both are wary of famous figures who do not understand the fine details of the debate making public errors.

The alliance, an amalgam of the British Field Sports Society, the Countryside Movement and the Countryside Business Group, spent about £50,000 yesterday on full-page advertisements in the *Daily Mail*, *The Independent* and *The Guardian*.

But today the anti-hunting groups, who have formed the Campaign for the Protection of Hunted Animals, are paying for a more extensive and expensive advertising campaign in national newspapers. They also received a boost when the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, yesterday gave his strongest indication yet that the Government might support the Bill, which would ban the hunting of foxes, deer, hares and mink with dogs.

"I have voted before in favour of a ban on fox hunting and I shall continue to do so," he said at Prime Minister's Question

Time in the Commons. "I have to say I believe that can be done without massive destruction of the countryside."

However, Mr Foster, the MP for Worcester, still faces a struggle to get his measure through. Although it will almost certainly pass its second reading in the promised free vote in November - 170 MPs, mostly Labour, have signed a Commons' motion in favour of a ban - Conservative opponents will try to delay it.

The Bill will have its toughest test in the House of Lords, however. There, the pro-hunt-

Both the pro and anti sides of the hunting debate will try to enlist the support of celebrities for their cause

numbers. The three - the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the League Against Cruel Sports and the International Fund for Animal Welfare - intend to spend hundreds of thousands on their joint campaign. The IFAW has commissioned a new MORI poll, published today, which found that 71 per cent of people wanted hunting with dogs abolished.

But their campaigning will only reach full pitch at the party conferences in September followed by events at the start of the hunting season, just weeks before the second reading of the bill on 28 November.

Kevin Saunders, spokesman for the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "This is one of the biggest animal welfare campaigns that has ever been mounted in Britain."

Eric Bettelheim, the founder of the Countryside Business Group, said the pro-hunters' task was to convince an urban parliament of the crucial role hunting and other field sports played in conserving rural landscapes and the countryside economy. In the two years since it was formed, the group has raised £2m from its members - mainly large estates and businesses with an interest in field sports.

"We need to create an atmosphere in which instead of hysteria and emotion, there is serious debate about the damage a ban on hunting would do," said Mr Bettelheim, a City lawyer who hunts foxes.

The anti-hunting lobby believe that those rallying in Hyde Park are misleading on some points and just plain wrong on others. They have an array of experts, including Bristol University fox expert Dr Stephen Harris, prepared to back them. The campaigners claim that hunting is both cruel to foxes and ineffective in controlling the animal. Hunters are estimated to kill 2.5 per cent of Britain's foxes a year. Eight times that many are shot, which hunt opponents claim is far more humane.



Paddy Groves: joint master of Quantock Stagounds Photograph: Apex

The pro-hunting lobby

There are over 300 hunts, mostly fox hunts, with 215,000 followers. The British Field Sports Society has 80,000 members and affiliated groups 380,000 members. The BFSS aims to raise a £1m fighting fund by the end of the year. The Countryside Business Group has so far raised £2m from members fighting the anti-hunting Bill.

Paddy Groves began following the stagounds as a child, on foot and on a bicycle. The carpenter's son from north Devon then took to following them in a friend's car.

But he began riding on horseback with the Quantock Stagounds in neighbouring Somerset eight years ago, when he had set himself up as a timber contractor. Now aged 41, he owns and runs a village pub and restaurant in Fitzhead, near Taunton, Somerset with his girlfriend and has just been elected the hunt's joint master.

"I'm an ordinary person with an or-

inary job, and I'm not ashamed to say I enjoy hunting," he said. "It's exhilarating. You get to ride across land you would not normally be allowed to, and jump obstacles."

"But it's also doing something really worthwhile. If you take away hunting you'll certainly see a decline in the deer." The hunt argues that if it is stopped then culling by farmers is bound to escalate to the point where red deer could face extinction. Hunting helps keep the deer population in check, claims Mr Groves.

Nicholas Schoon

The anti-hunting lobby

The main representatives are the RSPCA, with 42,000 members and 500,000 regular supporters; the League Against Cruel Sports, with 40,000 members and supporters, and a fighting fund of around £200,000; and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which hopes to raise £200,000 from a mailing now going out to its supporters.

Penny Little, 44, has been a member of the League Against Cruel Sports for 18 years.

"I've always been against hunting. I think the whole business of chasing and persecuting animals is savage and barbaric. The infliction of terror on an animal is unforgivable. If someone were to beat a dog in the street, there would be a public outcry," said Ms Little, who lives in Great Haseley, near Thame, where she jointly runs a sanctuary for orphaned wild animals, and spends much of her time as a hunt monitor.

In the hunting season, Ms Little goes out as often as three times a week to monitor hunting activity with a video camera from public rights of way. The footage is then used as evidence to substantiate claims of rural disturbance and animal cruelty.

"There is nothing I could tell you that's not documented on tape. The majority of the general public are against hunting, even in rural areas. We have evidence not only of cruelty, but of hunts trespassing on rail lines and on privately owned land."

Rachel Woollett

The Prodigy storms US charts with 'subversive' hit

Clare Garner

There is no accounting for taste when it comes to how British music will go down in the States. The anarchic dance act, The Prodigy, has gone to number one in the US album chart just eight days after releasing its controversial new album, *The Fat of the Land*.

At number two are the Spice Girls - surely the polar opposite in pop. Everything about The Prodigy, including the fact that its label, XL Recordings, had to asterisk out one of its song titles, "Smack My Bitch Up" for fear of offending the American market, is the opposite of the fluffy, play-it-safe Spice Girls' style. Yet both bands are flourish-

ing across the Atlantic. Chris Sharp, spokesman for The Prodigy, believes the two bands, the one subversive, the other sugary, have bowed over to Americans for "completely different reasons."

"The Spice Girls are a manufactured, five-girl band who produce sugary music. They are scantily clad women playing

radio-friendly pop songs - which is something The Prodigy have never done. The Prodigy are a subversive, underground, hard, uncompromising, noisy, original techno-punk band which comes out of a vibrant youth company."

Gavin Reeve, editor of *Smash Hits*, had a different theory. Both The Prodigy and

the Spice Girls are "larger-than-life, cartoon-like characters, bold and fun," he said. "They both dress up and sometimes silly hair is enough to break it somewhere."

With reference to The Prodigy's controversial refrain, "Change My Pitch Up, Smack My Bitch Up," Mr Sharp added: "One of the reasons the

Prodigy is different to the Spice Girls is because they would put that kind of a sample in one of their songs. They are successful despite rather than because of their uncompromising attitude."

The four-boy band from Braintree, Essex, has already sold 250,000 copies of their new album (which is now num-

ber one in 22 different countries) in the US, thereby perpetuating the British domination of the US album charts started by The Spice Girls 20 weeks ago.

Their dance numbers such as "Breathe, Serial Thriller" and "Firestarter" have nudged the gospel singer, Bob Carlisle's album, *Butterfly Kisses*, which includes songs entitled "On My

Knees" and "Man of His Word", from their Billboard number one slot.

Mr Reeve believed that The Prodigy's concert in May made all the difference. "Going to a Prodigy concert is like going to a circus, a rock concert and a title fight all in one go."

"It's so showbiz, it's brilliant," he said.

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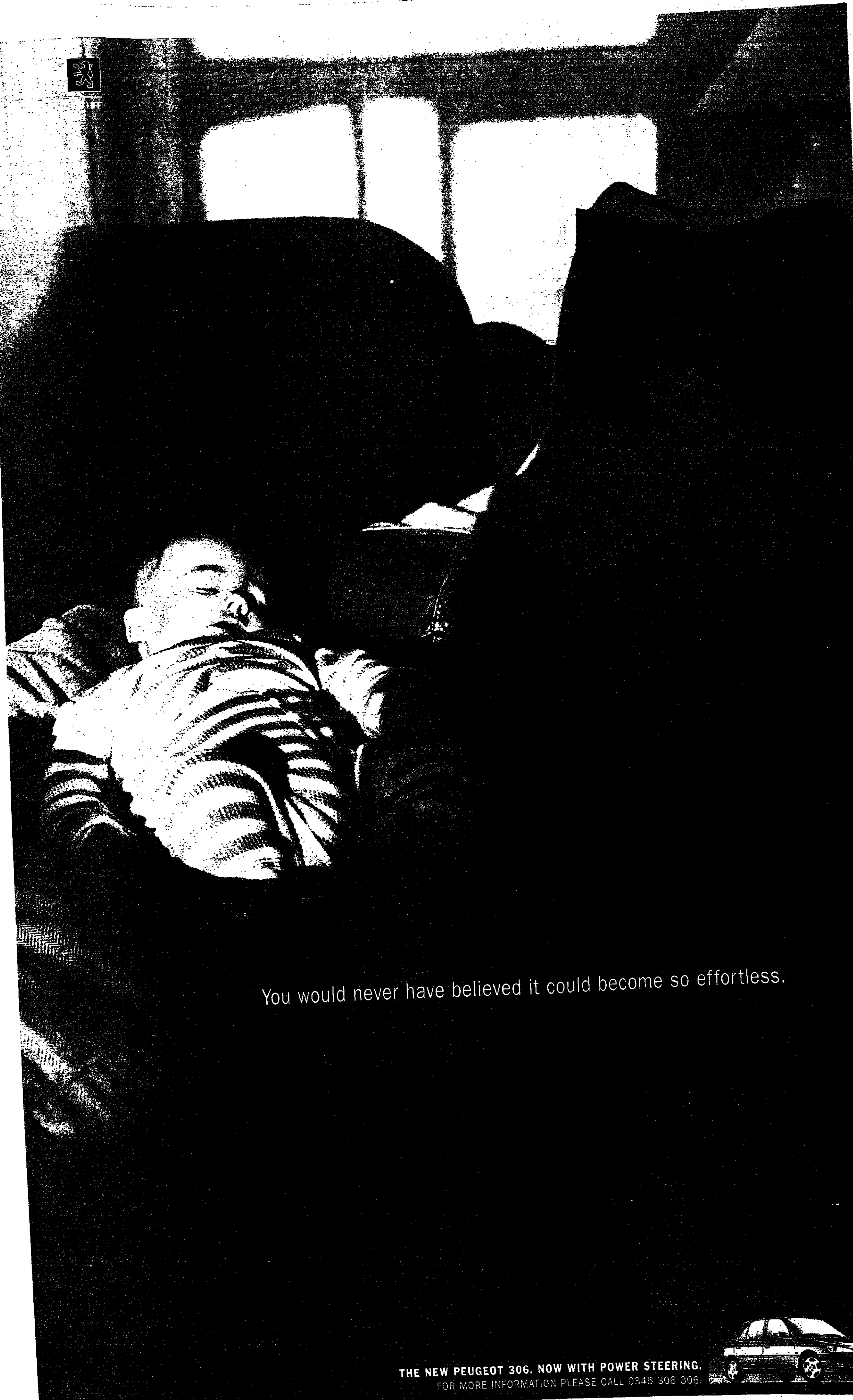
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Tourists and business people hit by BA strike

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

It was the day that Heathrow stood still. The action of 5,000 cabin crew and the intransigence of the nation's flag carrier snuffed out the plans of thousands of holidaymakers and business people yesterday. Despite the fight, the atmosphere on the front lines was good humoured. However, the banter was soured by the presence of British Airways management representatives.

"We don't mind them watching us," said one stewardess with Bessa, the cabin crew union. "We have even offered them a drink at lunch. Their presence is just a symptom of management's paranoia."

'They gave me a pastry, but I want a plane'

Les Welbourne and his wife, Hilary, are surrounded by luggage in the Terminal 1 departure lounge. Both retired, they are on the way home to Yorkshire after holidaying in Philadelphia. "They told us in Philly that there wouldn't be a connecting shuttle home and offered us a train ticket instead." But the luggage is too much, so they phoned their son in Huddersfield. "He had to pack in work for the day and drive down."

Les disputes that it is the union's fault. "If they're offering them these bad settlements, then they're right to take action."

On the bus ride between terminals, Lynne Astley, 38, of Brisbane and her daughter Jo, 13, are looking out at the rows of grounded BA aircraft. They dropped her sister at Terminal 1 and hope their own flight is not delayed. They tried ringing BA, but could not get through. "My husband was a union man, but I think they don't realise the consequences for all the rest of us."

There are huge queues at Terminal 4. Alexandra Jankiewicz, 27, a graphic designer, is sitting on the departure hall floor. She is heading home for Connecticut. "They gave me a cheese Danish, but I want them to give me a plane."

Striking crew outside the airlines crew centre claimed that management had installed cameras to record staff on the picket. However, Mervyn Walker, director of human resources at BA, denied that crew were being taped adding "No staff are under surveillance."

Union members also claimed they had been harassed in the weeks leading up to the strike. Many said executives had told them that their actions would "end your career with BA".

The problem is pay. Staff say that the new conditions, imposed by the airline after five months of inconclusive negotiations with Bessa, will see a substantial loss in their earnings.

One purser, with the airline for 21 years, said he received £19,000 a year basic pay. With car and unsocial hour allowances he manages to bring home £24,000 a year. "The new deal would see me only with £22,950 a year. I have got kids and cannot afford to do that."

However, a smaller rival union, Cabin Crew 89 - which accepted the pay deal in May - claimed that "nobody would lose out".

Anthony Lamb, a cabin service director with BA who joined CC89 when it was set up eight years ago and who worked yesterday, said: "I now get £23,000 a year, that's 14 per cent more than I used to. It's not that I've lost my allowances - they have just been incorporated into my pay."

Mr Lamb says that the bad blood between the two crew unions has made working difficult. "It is a problem when people say you are breaking their strike or calling you a scab."

Inter-union rivalry apart, the real battle is between Bessa and BA. 1,500 cabin crew called in sick yesterday, double the usual number. The airline had expected 900 cabin crew to turn up, but by late afternoon only 700 - mostly non Bessa members - had made it into work.

The striking staff appeared determined to face down the executives. "You see, the whole place has changed out of all recognition in the last few years," said one stewardess, who has been with BA for 27 years.

"We did not agree with everything Lord King [BA chairman 1981-93, now president] did or Colin Marshall [chairman]. But they respected their staff. Bob Ayling [chief executive] just wants cheap labour. He doesn't like us, he loathes us."



Perfect poise: Pupils of the Royal Ballet School rehearsing yesterday for a jubilee performance at Covent Garden in central London, to celebrate 50 years since the school was founded. Members of the lower school appear with the upper school, staff and former dancers in a grand finale. Photograph: Laune Lewis

Extra troops to police marches

David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent
Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Four hundred extra troops were ordered into Northern Ireland yesterday as the Royal Ulster Constabulary warned of potentially "catastrophic consequences" if trouble flared at a major Orange march in Londonderry on Saturday.

Although the republican street violence which followed last Sunday's Orange march at Drumcree had largely subsided yesterday, apprehension remains at a high level in advance of Saturday's 12 July marches, the height of the marching season.

The two possible flashpoints will be in Londonderry, where 10,000 Orangemen are due to assemble in the face of already vocal opposition from local Catholic residents, and on the Omagh Road in south Belfast.

The fact that major demonstrations are to take place at more than a dozen venues all over Northern Ireland means that Army and RUC sources will be stretched. The 400 extra troops, from the first battalion, the Stafford Regiment, will arrive today. Their deployment was ordered by ministers following advice from RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, and Army General Officer Commanding, Lieutenant General Sir Rupert Smith.

Last night, John Hume, the nationalist Social and Democratic Labour Party leader, urged Tony Blair in private talks at Westminster to impose a moratorium on more marches in Ulster next weekend in an attempt to stem the wave of rioting, shooting and firebombings.

"We expressed to him very strongly our feeling about the situation in the Garvaghy Road and the deep anger that exists in the community," Mr Hume said after the meeting.

However, in spite of the clear anger among SDLP MPs at the decision to drive ahead with the Orange march in Portadown, Mr Hume signalled a conciliatory move towards the beleaguered Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam.

He refused to criticise Ms Mowlam over the leaked document which showed that civil servants had been planning for the march three weeks before it took place, and he said she had explained at the meeting that it was one of a series of options they had considered.

The SDLP leader and his deputy, Seamas Mallon, were not told about the deployment of more troops until after the meeting with Mr Blair, but they said it showed the need to reduce the tension on the streets in the province. Mr Blair was said by Mr Hume to be considering his call for a ban on some specified marches which they fear could lead to violence.

The Prime Minister gave his strongest support so far to his Northern Ireland secretary in the Commons when he called for calm on all sides.

Mr Blair said: "The situation in Northern Ireland over the past few days has been appalling and it is tragic for all the people in Northern Ireland."

"We have been trying - and in particular Ms Mowlam has been trying, to whom I pay trib-

ute to her courage and determination - to do the best in good faith in a situation in which all the options available are difficult and hard."

He called on all sides "to try as best they can, recognising all the pressures that are on them, just as there are pressures on us, to keep the wider process for a lasting political settlement going".

Letters, page 21

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politics

Butler rejects BP shares inquiry call

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Tory suggestions of impropriety over the appointment of the former BP chairman, Lord Simon, as Minister for Competitiveness in Europe have been dismissed by Sir Robin Butler, Secretary to the Cabinet.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Trade and Industry said Sir Robin had decided to reject a Conservative call for an inquiry into Lord Simon of Highbury's compliance with the ministerial code of conduct. *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, "He is content with the arrangements for ensuring there is no conflict of interest," she said.

The Cabinet Secretary's formal blessing for the fact that Lord Simon has not sold his £2m shareholding in the company - while putting other shares into a "blind trust", over which he has no control, while being kept from all Whitehall decision and discussion about BP - will anger Tory MPs who have been demanding his resignation.

John Redwood, shadow President of the Board of Trade, said yesterday that he would be asking whether Lord Simon had severed all links with a rolling performance scheme for senior BP executives: a tax-efficient scheme under which shares were put into

trust in Jersey. A BP spokesman said that Lord Simon no longer had any connection with the scheme.

There were signs of a concerted fightback in Lord Simon's defence yesterday. Barbara Roche, a ministerial colleague at the Department of Trade and Industry, accused the Tories of muck-raking, and 25 new Labour MPs put down an amendment to a Commons motion tabled by John Bercow, Conservative MP for Buckingham, in which they suggested that the real Tory gripe was one of sour grapes at Labour's recruitment of such a high-profile businessman.

Mrs Roche told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*: "David Simon takes no part in the Department of Trade and Industry or Treasury business which covers BP activity. Sir Robin Butler is perfectly satisfied and all the procedures have been followed."

"It's a great sadness that because a successful and world-class businessman has joined the new Labour government as a minister that the Conservative Opposition are stooping to try to have this scabbling around and to try to muck-rack in this way."

Mr Redwood told the same programme: "We think something has gone badly wrong here. We think there does need to be a proper inquiry..."



Looping the hoop: The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, starting a game between Pimlico School, London, and disabled pupils from St Giles's, Croydon, as the countdown began to national Make a Difference Day, on 1 November, which is a drive to attract volunteers

Photograph: PA

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Blair slows reforms to carry union vote

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

The Labour leadership is expected to water down proposals for modernising party decision-making in order to win the backing of the big unions.

Today, one of Labour's biggest affiliates will add its voice to demands that unions maintain a strong presence in the party structure.

Party sources said the leadership is preparing to amend their proposals in order to win over the union block vote and defeat demands from constituencies that the whole package of proposals contained in the "Labour into Power" document be postponed for a year.

Senior figures are expected to agree to allow unions and constituencies to submit motions at conferences even if they contradict party policy. They are

also likely to be given assurances that they will not lose any of the 12 union seats on the National Executive Committee. The NEC is due later this month to finalise its policy which was originally intended to make the annual conference a rubber-stamping process for policies which had been assisted through a system of policy forums.

The biennial conference of the Transport & General Workers' Union is today expected to endorse overwhelmingly a resolution calling for unions to keep their half share of the vote at policy-making annual conferences and that they be allowed to submit motions to it.

The TGWU resolution, which also calls for the sovereignty of the annual assembly to be respected, comes in the wake of a strongly worded memorandum submitted to the Labour leadership by the right-wing and nor-

mally loyal Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union. The document accuses the "so-called ultra-modernisers" in the party of behaving like "right-wing Trotskyists trying to outdo each other in their extremism and outrageousness". Peter Mandelson, Labour's *éminence grise* is thought to be one of the targets for the accusations.

Together with public service union, Unison, the GMB general union and MSF, they make up more than 40 per cent of the total vote at the party conference in October. According to some sources, the party is determined to reduce the 50 per cent of the policy-making vote now enjoyed by unions, and might try to do so next year.

The resolution from the TGWU reminds the party leadership that Labour was "set up to provide a collective voice in parliament for organised labour".

If the organisational links were broken it would destroy any prospect of the party realising the Labour movement's values of equality and solidarity. The federal nature of the Labour structure should not be disrupted, otherwise it would cease to be a means of attaining fundamental economic and social change. The resolution says maximum unity of the labour movement would be crucial to the success of the Government.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, last night sought to bring employees on board ahead of legislation to enforce union recognition.

He told the annual dinner of the North-west CBI that the movement was not looking for "heavy punishments" to create martyrs out of recalcitrant employers. He urged employers to pave the way for legislation through dialogue.

Row over Tory tactics in Lords

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is threatening to provoke a constitutional dispute with the Tories by creating a lengthy list of Labour working peers to coincide with John Major's resignation honours list.

Tory Blair yesterday accused the Tories of using their inbuilt majority of hereditary peers in the Lords to defeat the Government over its manifesto commitment to hold devolution referendums on different days in Wales and Scotland.

"What could be more wrong than that the Conservatives depending on Conservative peers to do their business because they lost the election?" said Mr Blair.

He is preparing to hit back against the Tory peers by announcing a working list of about 20 Labour peers, and will follow it later in the Parliament with legislation to end the vot-

ing powers of hereditary peers.

A senior Cabinet source said Labour could not overturn the Tory majority in the Lords, but the aim will be to create enough Labour peers over the next five years to equalise the strength of life peers.

The creation of more Tory life peers in Mr Major's resignation honours will increase the Tory majority in the Lords over Labour. Tory sources said they would demand the right to create more working peers in Mr Blair's list. "It would be break with precedent if we were not allowed a balancing number of peers in a working list," said the source.

But there was no sign that Mr Blair would agree to that request. Lord Richard, the Leader of the House of Lords, has told Mr Blair he needs more reinforcements to cope with the forthcoming controversial legislation to give Scotland a Parliament and Wales an Assembly if both are approved in the referendums.

Refugees not entitled to cash

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

Chaotic arrangements for caring for destitute asylum seekers were set to continue yesterday after a judge rejected a London council's bid to be allowed to make cash benefits to those denied state benefits.

The test case ruling against the west London Borough of Hammersmith and three individual claimants is likely to cost London councils £1m in money already paid out, but not reclaimable from the Department of Health, the Association of London Government said.

But Mr Justice Laws said the Government had correctly argued that the payments were not lawful under the 1948 National Assistance Act, which allowed councils to provide only food, shelter and the basics of life.

The ruling fuelled calls by Labour MPs and refugee groups for the Government to scrap rules introduced by the previous

administration which deny social security to applicants who fail to claim refugee status at their port of entry. Clive Soley, the MP for Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush and chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said: "I and others will approach the present Government with a view to resolving this totally unsatisfactory situation."

Sheona York, a solicitor from Hammersmith Law Centre, which acted in the case, said she hoped the Court of Appeal would consider the case but emphasised: "The far more fundamental issue is whether the new Government is going to look comprehensively at the plight of asylum seekers."

She added: "The consequence of today's ruling is that single asylum seekers will continue to live in hostel bed and breakfast accommodation without money to use a telephone and no ability to have any social intercourse with the rest of the world."

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The £1.3m present that Charlie Haughey forgot

Alan Murdoch
Dublin

In a breathtaking about-turn, Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister, admitted yesterday that he received £1.3m in secret payments from Ben Dunne, the supermarket tycoon. He also conceded that he had misled even his own lawyers over the affair until two days ago.

The admission that he had in effect lied came in a statement read out to the Dublin tribunal investigating payments to politicians. The confirmation helps explain how, on a limited ministerial salary, Mr Haughey was able to sustain the lifestyle of a European monarch, with a mansion, a private Atlantic island, a yacht, expensive clothes and racchorses.

The revelation has major financial implications for Mr Haughey, who could face a huge tax and interest bill. Separately, he faces legal pressure from new management at Dunnes Stores to repay £1.3m it claims was "improperly diverted" to him. Mr Haughey declined another £1m offered privately earlier this year by Mr Dunne to ease his tax liabilities.

Last night, opposition leaders were asking pointed questions about Mr Haughey's links with other leading Irish business figures during his four terms of office. The fall-out is already bringing the new Prime Min-

ister, Bertie Ahern, under fire. Pat Rabbitte, the outgoing commerce minister, said it was "utterly naïve to pretend that people who were in Cabinet with Charles Haughey, including Bertie Ahern, can just say 'that was then and this is now'". It is an earthquake in political terms when you have someone who was too close to making this kind of admission.

After the politician had eluded crisis after crisis over three decades, gasps of disbelief greeted Mr

overseas accounts from Hong Kong to the Isle of Man before reaching Mr Haughey. They were raised from Mr Dunne by Mr Traynor on Mr Haughey's behalf to pay off the then premier's huge debts. The second amount, in bank drafts in fictitious names, was handed personally to Mr Haughey with the words "Here's something for yourself". Mr Haughey, Mr Dunne claimed, had replied "Thanks, big fella".

In letters to the tribunal, Mr

Haughey had discussed the £1.3m three years ago. Telephone logs from Mr Smyth's office showed 20 contacts in 1994.

Mr Smyth gave a guarded description of one 1994 meeting at Abberville, after he had secured Hong Kong documents indicating where the money had gone, at which Mr Haughey flatly denied he had got it. "It is difficult to explain that I wasn't alarmed [by the denial]", Mr Smyth said, adding "I would have enough judgement at this stage to know that what he said was not necessarily what you might think."

Mr Dunne's sister, Margaret Heffernan, had earlier confirmed that she confronted Mr Haughey who denied receiving the money and suggested her brother "needed medical help". Mr Dunne had been embroiled in a drink, cocaine and call-girl scandal in Florida in 1992. A battle for control of the Dunnes Stores family trust led Ben Dunne to claim other trustees were not in control of the firm. He used the Haughey payments to show that they did not know what had gone on while he was chief executive.

Leaked documents from that family row prompted the Irish government to set up the tribunal to determine what cash changed hands and if political favours had been given.



Tarnished reputation: Charles Haughey, who received £1.3m from Ben Dunne. Photograph: Eamon Farrell

'It is naïve to pretend that people who were in Cabinet with Charles Haughey can say that was then and this is now'

Haughey's counsel, Eoin McGonigal, in the Dublin Castle tribunal as he read the retired Fianna Fail leader's statement.

It said: "I now accept I received the £1.3m from Mr Ben Dunne's solicitor, and that I became aware that he was the donor to the late Mr Des Traynor [Mr Haughey's banker] in 1993. I further accept Mr Dunne's evidence that he handed me the £210,000 at Abberville [Haughey's mansion] in November 1991."

The first sum mentioned was the total of payments channelled through

Haughey first denied receiving the funds. Last week, he amended this, with his lawyers saying he "probably" received the £1.3m, but had not been told who the donor was. Mr Haughey, 71, is due to give evidence in person next week.

The latest admission was triggered by Ben Dunne's solicitor, Noel Smyth, who in April said he would, if ordered by the tribunal, reveal contents of five private conversations this year with Mr Haughey on the tribunal's investigations. It then emerged that Mr Smyth and Mr

Labour takes chair in key select committees

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Margaret Hodge, the former leader of Islington borough council, was yesterday endorsed by the Labour Party to head the Commons select committee on education as Labour prepared to reinforce its domination in the Commons by taking the chair in all the key select committees.

Ms Hodge, Blairite Labour MP for Barking, will chair the committee in tandem with Derek Foster, MP for Bishop Auckland. Mr Foster, a former Labour chief whip, became the first minister

to resign from the Blair government, when he stood down within days of his appointment to a junior post in the Office of Public Service, after expectations that he would be in the Cabinet.

Chris Mullin (Sunderland South), the civil rights and justice campaigner, was endorsed at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party for the chair of the Select Committee on Home Affairs, as tipped in *The Independent* on Tuesday.

The committees are expected to meet next week to confirm the appointment of their chairs. The Liberal Democrats, who in-

creased their seats, for the first time are being given the chairmanship of the social security select committee under Arty Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire). The Tories have been allotted five out of sixteen committees: agriculture, international development (overseas aid), and science and technology, but there was a row over the Tories chairing the Northern Ireland Committee with Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke) tipped to get it today. Peter Brooke, the former secretary of state for Northern Ireland, was favourite among Tory MPs as chairman of the public accounts committee.

With Scottish and Welsh devolution causing controversy, the chairmanship of the select committees on Scotland and Wales will go to two loyal Government supporters. David Marshall (Glasgow Shettleston) and Martyn Jones (Clwyd South).

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS THE LEADERS TACKLE BLAIR

William Hague asked whether Blair had estimated the impact of the Budget on local government pension funds. Blair replied that the Budget measures were "entirely right and necessary". Hague quoted the Local Government Association, and Staffordshire County Council, on the effects of the measures.

Verdict: Hague wins

Paddy Ashdown asked Blair to confirm that last week's Budget means five billion pounds less for public services. Blair said that although inflation predictions had been revised, the amount of "cash" money going to go into public services was unchanged. Ashdown quoted Treasury figures in support of his case.

Verdict: Ashdown wins

THE BACKBENCH ISSUES

THEMES OF THE DAY

• Hunting with hounds (Tony Baldry, C. Benbury)

• The British Airways dispute (Nicholas Winterdon, C. Maclelland)

• Funding for the NHS (Ross Cranston, Lab, Dudley N)

GOOD DAY...

Michael Spitzer

The people of Denmark vote "no". In their referendum on the Treaty of Amsterdam, would that render the entire Treaty null and void? Blair did not know that the answer was yes, or he did not wish to admit it.

Peter Luff

Con. Worcestershire Mid usually manages to harness Labour underdogs. Today the Speaker recognised him as a source of noise pollution and commanded: "Mr Luff, keep calm".

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

Blair told the Conservative benches: "Honourable members opposite may shout about it, but for those who work in the Health Service a billion pounds extra is well needed." Ashdown pounced: "Yes, but of course not this year".

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

John Hume (SDLP Foyle) asked whether a process leading to lasting stability in Northern Ireland could best take place with "a total moratorium on all street activity and all marches."

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Cranston asked Blair if he was "aware of the very warm welcome in the country, and in particular in my constituency, for the extra one billion to be spent on the NHS. Will he give the commitment to the House that the Government will continue to implement its manifesto promises to improve the NHS?"

Compiled by Ben Summers

Waterloo for the British loo?

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

An outbreak of loo wars was threatened last night over a Brussels directive which would force Britain to accept inferior French lavatories for the first time.

Britain has been self-sufficient in its supply of lavatories for centuries, by insisting on a "syphonic" system involving a flush using suction to draw the water up before it is released, preventing leakage.

British manufacturers of the traditional water closet claim that the French loo uses a cheaper, plug-type flushing system, which depends on simple gravity, and is prone to leakage.

Michael Fabricant, the Conservative MP for Lichfield, where WC manufacturers Armitage Shanks is based, last night called for the draft regulations to be withdrawn. He said that the sub-standard system could waste more than 50 billion gallons of water a year.

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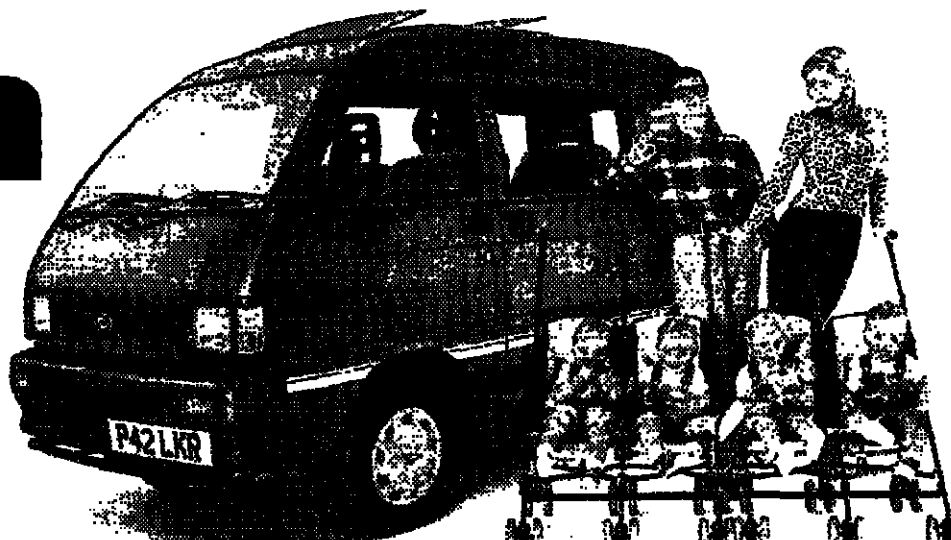
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news

No-show patients cost NHS £500m a year

Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

Careless patients who fail to keep hospital appointments are costing the National Health Service £500m a year, ministers disclosed yesterday.

The huge drain on the NHS's hardpressed budget was revealed as ministers published the fourth annual set of performance tables for the service which show pressures growing.

The total number of starred ratings indicating good performance is down on last year and cancelled operations not rescheduled within a month – a sensitive indicator of hospitals in difficulty – are up almost 40 per cent.

Launching the tables, which are to be extended to include death rates and other clinical measures, Baroness Jay, the health minister, said she had been shocked by the number of patients who missed hospital appointments. They average 11 per cent across the NHS, but rise to more than one-third in some hospitals.

She said 1.3 million first out-patient appointments were missed each year at a cost of almost £200 each, equivalent to £250m. In addition, 250,000 patients failed to turn up for booked operations or day case surgery at an average cost of



Star performance: Doctors operating in the intensive care unit of King George hospital in east London, where out-patient waiting times have improved
Photograph: David Rose

Health check

GOOD PERFORMERS

Most improved NHS trusts which have performed well across the range
Redbridge Healthcare NHS Trust
Mid-Sussex Hospital Services NHS Trust
Wiltshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Stockport Acute Services NHS Trust
Mid-Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Trust
Southend Healthcare NHS Trust
South Warwickshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Heathlands Mental Health NHS Trust, Surrey
North Hampshire Loddon Community NHS Trust

POOR PERFORMERS

NHS trusts and health authorities with poor records on certain measures
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust
Royal Hospitals Trust, east London
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen NHS Trust
Northwick Park and St Mark's NHS Trust
Bournemouth Community and Mental Health NHS Trust, Surrey
South Yorkshire Ambulance Service
Lewisham and Guy's Mental Health NHS Trust
BHB Community Mental Health Trust, Essex
Kensington and Chelsea Health Authority
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority

£1,000 each, worth another £250m. "We are seeing enormous sums being lost to the service," she said.

Some of the no-shows were accounted for by patients who died, got better or whose circumstances changed. Alan

Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, said hospitals that phoned patients the week before they were due to come in improved attendance.

"There is a responsibility on patients to keep appointments and an important job for hos-

pitals to ensure patients are reminded," he said.

Lady Jay said the existing performance tables, which assess hospitals across more than 70 indicators including waiting times, day surgery and cancelled operations, measured

the quantity, but not the quality of treatment. She announced trials of 15 clinical indicators including deaths in hospital within 30 days of admission with a heart attack, infection rates and readmission rates. Some existing measures would be re-

placed including how rapidly patients are assessed in accident and emergency departments by what is disparagingly referred to as the "hello nurse".

The new clinical indicators, which were piloted last year under the Tory government, would

be introduced as soon as possible, probably by next year, Lady Jay said.

Medical organisations welcomed the move, but warned that like must be compared with like. The NHS Confederation said: "The current tables lack credibility because they fail to give the public any indication of the success of their local hospital."

One of the most improved NHS trusts, which increased its star rating in 23 categories, is Redbridge in east London, which runs the 450-bed King George hospital and three other smaller hospitals. The trust attributed its success to hard work in areas identified in previous tables as weak, such as out-patient waiting times.

Move for a better cut of surgeon

Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

Hospitals providing emergency surgery should be halved to concentrate skills and raise standards, the Royal College of Surgeons said yesterday.

Accidents involving inexperienced surgeons operating without adequate supervision, which have resulted in deaths and injuries to patients, had been identified in a series of reports, the college said. The increasing complexity of surgery meant that concentrating skills in larger centres was the only way to improve the service and protect patients.

In a report published yesterday the college says the ideal emergency surgical service

should serve a population of 500,000, about twice the current average. Sir Rodney Sweetnam, president of the college, said: "A comprehensive service can no longer be provided in every district general hospital. We are suggesting that the time has come for them to co-operate with each other." Hospitals within half an hour's travelling time of each other should consider concentrating emergency surgical services on one site while the other provided non-urgent surgery, out-patient or other treatment. Politicians, the public and the profession would have to accept that not every service could be provided close to home.

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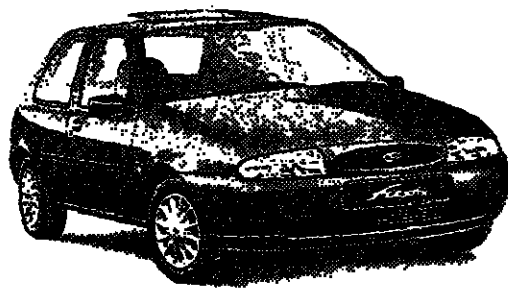
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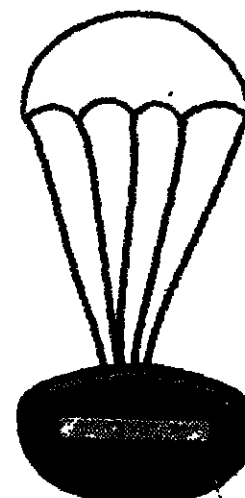
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Big issue: The BBC's 'Between the Lines' tackled police corruption Photograph: BBC

Jason Bernette
Crime Correspondent

A growing rift is developing between rank and file police officers and their chiefs over their ability to sack and punish them. Critics say the system is slow, toothless, and so weighted in favour of the police officers it is little wonder that so few are punished. Only 98 officers were dismissed last year.

Beat officers believe chief constables are trying to remove an important safeguard which protects them from false allegations by criminals. The row moved up a gear yesterday with the admission by one of the country's most senior

chief constables that he knows of corrupt and grossly incompetent police officers but cannot dismiss them. In addition, police chiefs believe that a growing number of officers accused of serious corruption and malpractice are avoiding disciplinary hearings by taking sick leave and retiring on grounds of ill health. It was also disclosed that police officers are escaping criminal charges because the Crown Prosecution Service fears a failed court case will jeopardise future disciplinary action.

Edward Crew, Chief Constable of West Midlands police, the second largest force in the country, reignited the debate yesterday after he told the Independent: "There are people working in this force that wouldn't be employed by Sainsbury's... There are a very small number of officers in this force and in the police service nationally who I suspect of having been involved in serious breaches in the criminal law, where it's not possible to obtain evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt they were involved in that behaviour."

At the centre of the dispute are the police's disciplinary procedures and the question of how officers accused of malpractice and corruption are dealt with. Rank and file members argue that extra safeguards are needed to protect officers from malicious complaints.

The Police Complaints Authority, the independent body set up to oversee investigations, has long called for changes to the system, which they believe can shield corrupt and second-rate officers. The Home Office is currently reviewing the whole procedure.

Chief constables are concerned about a number of issues. First, they believe the standard of proof needed to punish an officer at a disciplinary hearing is too high. At present they use the same standard as in a criminal case - they must prove something "beyond reasonable doubt", meaning they must be certain of guilt.

Police chiefs believe this can be very difficult to achieve and want it lowered to the same standard as other industrial tribunals and civil cases, namely a "balance of probability", meaning something is more likely than not, or reasonable, to believe.

They are also unhappy that if an officer is acquitted of a criminal charge, the evidence used to support the case cannot be re-used at a disciplinary hearing - this is known as "double jeopardy".

The Crown Prosecution Service has admitted privately that this system has resulted in them dropping charges against police officers in weak cases - juries are notoriously reluctant to convict police officers.

There is also disquiet about the use of sick leave and early retirement and on ill-health

Why is it so hard to straighten out a bent copper?



Outspoken: Edward Crew, Chief Constable of West Midlands Photograph: NewsTeam

grounds. This figure dropped to about 50 per cent last year. At present, there are two systems for dealing with allegations of corruption or malpractice. Cases can be dealt with the police's own internal complaints bureau, which are sometimes voluntarily referred to the PCA

to oversee. Alternatively, if there is a complaint, the PCA can supervise the investigation, bringing in an outside force if necessary.

When the inquiry is completed, the PCA will send recommendations to the CPS which decides whether to prosecute. If

no charges are brought, or once the trial has been completed, the chief constable can order a disciplinary review. The PCA assesses the evidence and ultimately decides what disciplinary charges should be brought.

These can range from a caution to dismissal. Of the 5,000

cases overseen by the PCA last year, 235 resulted in disciplinary charges, most of which were the equivalent of a formal warning.

Police officers are able to appeal to the Home Secretary if they want to contest a disciplinary action, but this procedure

is due to be replaced by a Police Appeals Tribunal.

At present no action can be taken against those officers who are just lazy and not up to the job. This is likely to change, however, with the planned introduction of performance indicators.

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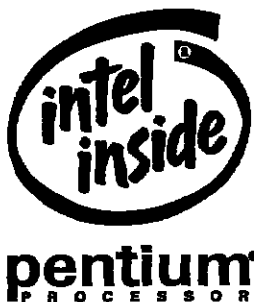
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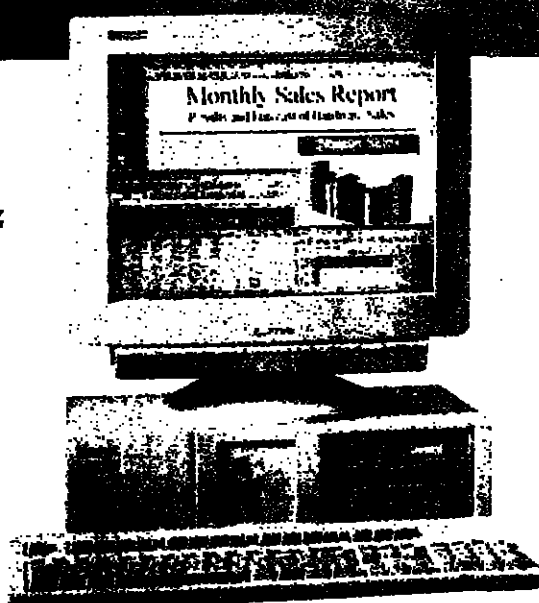
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news

Elderly drivers putting road users at risk

Ian Burrell

Motoring organisations called yesterday for urgent measures to improve driving conditions for the elderly as it emerged that the number of drivers in Britain over the age of 80 has risen to more than 330,000.

Steps to slow down traffic in urban areas, improve road visibility at night and make signs simpler are suggested as ways of reducing accidents involving older drivers. A report for the Automobile Association, *The Safety of Older Car Drivers in the European Union*, calls for changes in vehicle design to help elderly motorists cope with sensory and cognitive impairment and to give them greater protection against minor smashes, which are more often fatal to pensioners.

Figures released by Glenda Jackson, the transport minister, show there are 333,667 octogenarian motorists in Britain and 8,581 in their nineties. There are 23 men and four women drivers aged between 101 and 105.

Nearly 27 per cent of the dri-



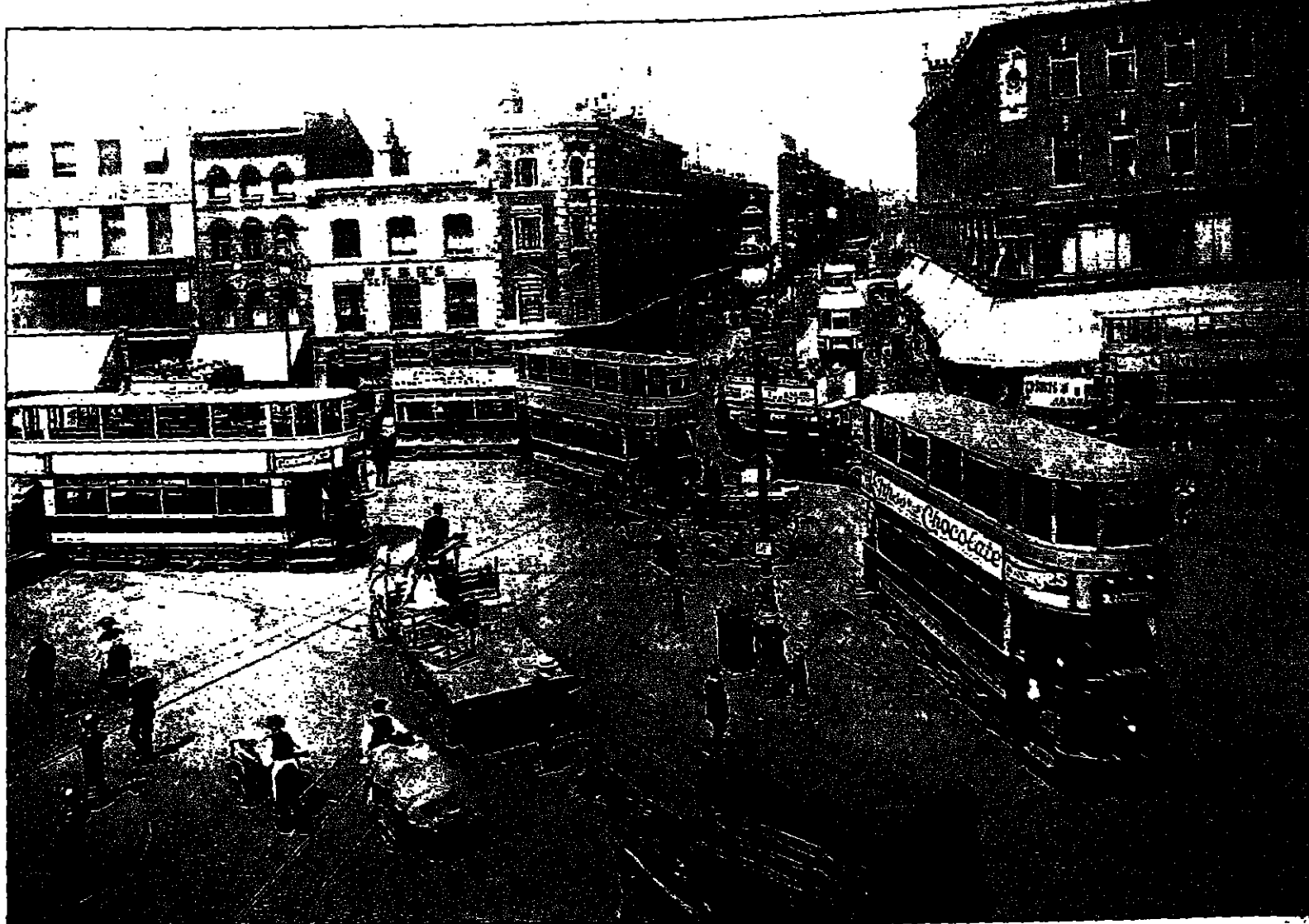
vers over 80 are women. The AA report found that the oldest group of drivers (85 and above) was the fastest-growing section of the motoring population, many of whom do not realise their driving is getting worse. "Some drivers remain unaware of the deterioration in their driving abilities," says the report. "They need to be encouraged to have their eyesight checked... and be aware of the potential impairing effects

of drugs taken for medicinal purposes."

Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport, urged GPs to be more explicit in stressing the effects of prescribed drugs on people's ability to drive. "Each year there are 100 million prescriptions for medicinal drugs which, if taken according to the prescription, would leave the person with slower reactions than if they failed a breathalyser test," he said. "That is a huge number of woody people who are going round, often on the roads, not reacting as they should." Elderly people often depend heavily on their cars for independence and are reluctant to give them up.

Last month a nun, Sister Mary McFadyen, 83, agreed to stop driving after escaping serious injury in Orkney. Her car took off as she accelerated over a speed-ramp to avoid a motorcyclist. The car collided with a lamp-post before coming to rest in a supermarket bottle bank. Sister McFadyen, who had an unblemished driving record, used to drive daily to church but now relies on lifts from friends.

Trams make tracks for return to West End



Way we were: Trams, like these operating at Gardiners Corner, Aldgate, in 1912 formed part of the capital's landscape Photograph: London Transport Museum

Magnus Grimond and Clare Garner

Radical plans to revitalise Regent Street, one of London's premier shopping areas, including pedestrianisation and the reintroduction of trams, are being discussed with Westminster City Council.

The Crown Estate, the state body which owns both sides of Regent Street along with large tracts of the most exclusive parts of central London, has employed consultants WS Atkins to draw up the proposals, which are currently the subject of the talks with Westminster.

The Crown Estate is particularly keen on the idea of reintroducing trams, which disappeared from the capital's landscape 40 years ago, but has stressed that any such moves could be some way off.

The results of the proposals, likely to cost several million pounds to implement, are expected to be unveiled in a report this autumn following consultations with the relevant authorities. The initial idea is to introduce a number of traffic calming measures over the next year, such as widening the pavements, increasing the number of pedestrian crossings and reducing the number of buses, leading to an eventual aim of drastically reducing or excluding private cars from the street.

Premises affected would include some of the best-known shops in London, such as Hamleys, the toy shop, the department store Liberty and Austin Reed, the outfitters, along with the Café Royal. Christopher Howes, the Crown Estate's chief executive, said the "traffic calming" ideas are an extension of the £4m refurbishment programme of Regent Street undertaken eight years ago.

"That was merely a step towards something really very visionary for Regent Street. What we are in discussions with the Highway Authority, the police and Westminster about is a hierarchy of measures ranging from virtually complete pedestrianisation, long term, starting with limited traffic calming measures," he said. As well as wider pavements, this could involve pollution-free cars or trams to ferry shoppers from one end of the street to the other.

Regent Street, home of London's Christmas lights, could also have a new lighting scheme which would illuminate not only the road but the buildings as well.

Mr Howes said officials would look at how "essential" it was for motorists to use the street, although they realised the sensitivity of the issue, given the lack of easy alternative routes. The plans emerged as the Crown Estate announced an 8.8 per cent rise in its revenue surplus - the equivalent of profits - to a record £103m for the year to March.

DAILY POEM

Five Years Old

By James Tate

Stars fell all night.
The iceman had been very generous that day
with his chips and silvers.

And I buried my pouch of jewels
inside a stone casket under the porch.
Their beauty saved for another world.

And then my sister came home
and I threw a dart through her cheek
and cried all night.

so much did I worship her.

James Tate's Selected Poems (Carcanet, £9.95), which includes work from the nine collections he has published since 1967, won a Pulitzer Prize in the US. This poem comes from Constant Defender, which first appeared in 1983.

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Days are numbered for killer fish

Rules to protect native species from aliens

Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

Britain's native fish are to get new protection from exotic alien species that either dominate or devour them in the underwater battle for survival.

Tighter controls and stiffer penalties for the release of non-native species into rivers and ponds are one of two government proposals which received a general welcome from the country's 3.3 million anglers. Ministers have also launched a review of salmon and fresh-water fisheries aimed at better management and conservation of stocks.

**'If you had a
piranha, you
could put it in
your local pond'**

The new rules will hit owners of fishing lakes who offer anglers the chance to hook monster-sized cat fish or sturgeon, although the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has yet to work out how it will deal with aliens already settled in commercial ponds.

The real threat to native species arises when the exotic newcomers either escape or are deliberately released into rivers or canals. The introduction of the signal crayfish and the zander has already had catastrophic effects, with the humble native crayfish, for example, driven to extinction in many streams.

Announcing the protection proposals yesterday, fisheries minister Elliot Morley said existing rules governing the release into the wild of non-native

fish had not been easy to enforce. Moreover, they did not cover fish farms and other waters not recorded as wild.

"You may find it surprising, but if you had a piranha or Nile perch and you wanted to put it into your local pond, there's nothing really to stop you," he said. However, even if the new rules remove difficulties over interpretation there will still be a problem of policing, with no significant extra money available

It is accepted internationally that the introduction of non-native fish and shellfish can have far-reaching and undesirable ecological consequences. Native fish can suffer direct competition for food, damage to their home environment or new diseases.

"Unless some further action is taken, it seems inevitable that native flora and fauna will continue to be put at risk with the attendant danger of another seriously damaging introduction, perhaps on a scale similar to that caused by signal crayfish," the Maff said.

A total ban on imports of non-native species would be contrary to European Union law. However, Maffi believes a licensing system could achieve much the same purpose. From next year, anyone wishing to keep or release non-native fish on a specified list would have to apply for a licence – and probably be refused. The draft black list already includes types of sturgeon catfish and carp, and zander. American brook trout and Mediterranean barbel.

The review of salmon and freshwater fisheries honours a commitment in Labour's Anglers' Charter. It will be aimed primarily at preventing over-fishing and dealing with anglers' complaints about regulations dating back to the last century.



Hunter: Monster-sized catches are the stuff of anglers' legends, but the Maff is introducing stiffer penalties for the release of exotic species

Salmon river revival

A £300,000 scheme has been launched to revive salmon runs in the River Esk, North Yorkshire, and make the banks a more attractive home for otters and bank voles, writes **Stephen Goodwin**.

The Esk is Yorkshire's only salmon and sea trout river, but the salmon population has been declining for 30 years.

Elliot Morley, the countryside minister, who launched the project in the North York Moors national park, claims it as evidence of the Government's commitment to preservation of the countryside.

The 22-mile Esk is one of the most picturesque rivers in northern England. But bank erosion has led to silt smothering the gravel beds where salmon lay their eggs.

"Siltng has become a major problem and the salmon runs in recent years have been very, very poor," said Peter Barfoot, the park's farm conservation adviser. About 500 anglers fish the Esk, for an average of eight days a year.

But fishermen surveyed said they would visit the Esk twice as often if salmon numbers increased. And with each angler spending an average £39 a day, mainly in hotel, pubs and restaurants, the impact of extra visits on the local economy could be considerable.

The partnership for the Esk has brought together landowners, farmers, fishing clubs and government agencies. Around £112,000 will come from an EU fund to help the economies of upland areas, and another £75,500 from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Work will include erosion control, channel improvements and repairs to weirs. Salmon numbers will be boosted through restocking.

"If we get the habitat right, it could revive the fortunes of a lot of other wildlife on the river, particularly the otter and bank vole," Mr Barfoot said.

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Common Agricultural Policy: Plans for direct payments to replace subsidies on produce will send tremors across Europe's farms

Wealthy farmers fear impact of reforms

Nicholas Schoon

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy could hit the country's bigger and wealthier farmers hard, Britain's largest farming union warns.

But the National Farmers Union (NFU) is broadly supportive of the thrust of the proposed reforms which the European Commission will unveil next week, as reported yesterday in *The Independent*, which had access to a leaked copy of the commission's proposals.

Tony Blair welcomed the proposals and said in Parliament that if they went ahead the plans would form one of the most important reforms that Europe could make.

"If that is happening it is a big change of heart, both on the part of the European Community and the European Parliament, and is greatly to be welcomed," the Prime Minister said.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture minister, said: "The CAP's flaws are manifest. It drives up prices for the consumer,

it burdens farmers with bureaucracy, it imposes false production controls and is open to fraud. Quite simply it has got to change if we are to compete in the global marketplace. It is very good news to know that the commission is thinking along similar lines."

The European Union wants to switch subsidies, from guaranteed, above-market prices, into direct payments to farmers. The cheques the farmers get will depend on how much livestock they have and how many acres they grow cereals on, but there will be a cut-off beyond which they will be given no more money.

British farms are much larger than most farms on the Continent. The average dairy herd in the United Kingdom consists of 70 cattle, while the EU average is slightly more than 30. The average cereal holding in Britain is 46 hectares, while in the EU, as a whole, the figure is 10.

Thus, if the cut-off point is set fairly low, a very large proportion of UK farmers could see their subsidies fall.

The NFU will not respond officially until the proposals are published next week.

But the president of the union, Sir David Naish, told BBC Radio 4: "I am concerned if there are constraints on the more efficient - British agriculture is among the more efficient, the more competitive - to benefit the less efficient."

The NFU is also worried at the proposal for a large chunk of the subsidies to be made at the discretion of national governments.

With a Labour government in power with a hefty majority, UK farmers fear they will have far less influence on ministers in winning national subsidy than will their counterparts in France and Germany.

"Overall, however, we support the direction of these reforms and have been arguing for them for the past five years," said another NFU official.

The union believes farmers should get the world-market price for what they grow, with subsidies in the form of direct

payments. It also supports the end to "set-aside" - paying farmers to leave crop fields idle - for which the commission is calling.

The question which such a switch to direct payments raises is, what should farmers actually have to do, if anything, to qualify for them?

The argument for farm subsidies across Europe is that they are needed to prevent the countryside from becoming depopulated and run-down, and to conserve treasured rural landscapes.

Without them, it is said, farmland will either be deserted or converted to monotonous, prairie-style landscapes. Thus the aim of the reforms is to slow down agricultural intensification, if not to halt it.

Yet the European Commission is not, as yet, envisaging any specific requirements for farmers to conserve a particular landscape or habitat, or to employ a certain number of people, in order to qualify for the direct payments.



Out to grass: Cattle belonging to country farmers graze by the Eiffel Tower in Paris

Photograph: AFP

The shopping basket, the soil and the public purse

Cheaper food?

Europe's support system for farmers was designed with the aftermath of the Second World War and the threat of mass starvation in the cities still fresh in the minds of the EEC's founding fathers.

Today, shoppers take for granted that supermarket shelves will be laden down all year round with fresh meat, bread, milk, fruit and vegetables. That is itself a testament to the success of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in guaranteeing steady supplies regardless of the weather.

But stocking the shops and securing the incomes of nine million farmers has been done on the back of artificially high consumer prices over the past 35 years. Basing their claims on Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development studies of world food prices, consumer groups claim the policy adds £20.00 a week to the shopping basket for a family of four.

Centrally-controlled from Brussels, which manages the huge £30bn annual farm budget, the CAP's cornerstone is a legal guarantee for farmers that their produce will be bought at a minimum price.

Imports from the outside world, for example lamb or butter produced in New Zealand where production costs are several times lower, are

subject to high import tariffs.

Scrapping open-ended intervention and phasing out price supports should bring EU food prices much closer to prevailing world levels.

That, in theory, means savings for consumers - not just on beef which is to undergo the steepest cut, 30 per cent, but also on chicken, pork and dairy products.

In practice, however, the price farmers receive accounts for only part of the price charged by retailers. Transport, processing and packaging must be factored in. Retail prices did not fall after the last round of CAP reform in 1992, and industry analysts are sceptical about cheaper food resulting from the next one.

The CAP reform proposals would also make farmer subsidies partly conditional on more environmentally-friendly farming methods, with much more money to be spent in future on promoting organic farms.

Poorer farmers?

Europe's nine million farmers, cosseted by Brussels from the free market forces of supply and demand for many years, are at last being told to do what every other industry has had to do: compete.

But the powerful farm lobby is already gearing up for a long resistance campaign. Expect to see noisy and often violent

French and Italian farmers taking to the streets.

Many of the farmers will have the support of their governments. They succeeded in watering down the severest price cuts in the 1992 negotiations and securing open-ended compensation.

Franz Fischler, the Austrian commissioner who has framed the latest plan, will adopt a strategy which could prove effective: divide and conquer. He will try to convince the smallholders and family farmers that he is Robin Hood, robbing the rich cattle ranchers and barley barons who are still creaming off 80 per cent of the subsidies, to pay them, the salt of the earth.

He is proposing to turn in-direct price support available for everyone into direct subsidy, payable only where needed.

Most crucially, Mr Fischler wants to impose individual ceilings on direct-aid payments. This was successfully resisted in 1992, leaving many bigger farmers even better off after the reform than before. Some British farmers, the East Anglian grain barons for example, can claim up to £1m a year from payments introduced in 1992 to compensate grain price cuts and set-aside.

Yet it is these big producers which will be best placed to take advantage of free world trade in food and farm products, inevitable after new rules are negotiated in 1999.

Who foots the bill?

British taxpayers could end up paying even more if CAP reforms are implemented.

The plans are designed to prevent a budgetary crisis when the EU expands into agriculture-dependent Eastern Europe, increasing the £30bn annual budget. The extra spending will be needed to pay for switching support from price guarantees towards direct cash aid.

Brussels officials, however, insist that big savings will arise through the scaling down of the system whereby the EU agrees to buy up unwanted food and place it in cold storage to drive up prices. "Intervention", as the system is called will only be allowed as a safety net.

Savings are unlikely to cover the cost fully, so the farm budget will rise for a number of years. One estimate is that farming's share of the total EU budget will go up to 50 per cent from a present level of 45 per cent.

Katherine Butler

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1997

international

Kuwait up in arms as Iraq joins Arab games

Robert Fisk
Beirut

When Lebanon decided to host the eighth pan-Arab games, the new \$45m stadium in Beirut was supposed to provide further proof of Lebanon's post-war recovery and symbolise a greater sense of Arab unity. Or so its supporters fondly believed. But just when the Arabs thought it was safe to go back into the sporting arena ... along came the shadow of Saddam Hussein.

Poor old Arabs, you couldn't help thinking this week, as Saturday's marathon opening at the spanking new stadium threatened to turn into Gulf War Part II. For Iraq – whose Olympic pioneer is none other than the brutal and wounded Uday, son of Saddam – insists on participating as a brother nation, to the fury of Kuwait, the resentment of Saudi Arabia and the embarrassment of Lebanon itself. Kuwait, it will be remembered, enjoyed an uninvited fraternal visit from Saddam's legions

in 1990 while Saudi Arabia received a few dozen of Saddam's Scud missiles as well as a mini-invasion by Iraq of its north-eastern corner. Lebanon, meanwhile, is not only desperate for further post-war financial assistance from the two Croesus-like Gulf kingdoms: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia happen to have stumped up one-third of the \$45m needed to build a spanking new stadium.

The result was as predictable as it was dramatic. Kuwait announced it will boycott any sports – and 2,000

athletes from at least 20 Arab nations are participating in soccer, basketball, swimming, tennis, shooting, wrestling and gymnastics – in which the Iraqis are playing. If Iraq's teams even turned up, according to Sheikh Ahmed al-Fahed al-Sabah, the head of the Kuwait Olympic committee, Kuwait's 277 athletes would march around the track at the opening ceremony waving photographs of the 600 Kuwaiti prisoners kidnapped by Iraq and never released after the liberation of the emirate in 1991.

It was the Arab League which blithely invited the Iraqis to attend the games; Lebanon – which only recently hosted Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia as a state guest – did not. But Iraq says the league's invitation has been accepted even though Lebanon has just left Baghdad's team off the list of participants. And after Monday's draw for soccer, volleyball and basketball did not include Iraq's name, Uday Hussein's newspaper, *Babel*, raged that the Beirut games' organising committee

was "a toy in the hands of those who have the power of money, thinking that by this power they can scratch the name of Iraq out of the records". Lebanon broke off diplomatic relations with Iraq after Baghdad's Beirut embassy staff assassinated an important Iraqi opposition leader in Beirut. The ambassadors of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have now said they hope Lebanon will prevent any Iraqi participation. So a country of only three-and-a-half million people which still hosts at least 26,000 soldiers from

Bitter past: Kuwaiti mourners carrying the body of a dead woman past burning oilfields during the Gulf War
Photograph: Popperfoto/AP

Geneva (Reuters) – Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia face Croatia Zagreb in the first qualifying round of the European Cup this month in a match charged with social and political overtones.

Yesterday's draw brought the rivals together for their first meeting since the end of hostilities which led to the break-up of Yugoslavia in the war of the early 1990s. They last met in the old Yugoslav first division in 1991.

Partizan secretary Zarko Zecevic said: "It's just a football match for me but others will see it differently."

Vlatko Markovich, Croatia Zagreb's coach, said: "We think we are the better side and there is nothing else to add."

Two superpower neighbours on its soil is now supposed to bring about a ceasefire between participants of the Gulf War.

Even holding the games has been a brave venture for Lebanon; originally scheduled for 1996, they were postponed after Israel's "Grapes of Wrath" blitz on the country, while Arab promises to fund the stadium were honoured only by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Lebanon has to find the remaining £20m – quite a price to pay for allowing Iraq to play the game.



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noisy offspring with a tweak of the volume button. And because Top Gear won't be the only ones to covet the Fiat Brava ELX, the car is fitted with an alarm and a Fiat CODE immobiliser. It means that only you and your sprogs can enjoy the refined 1.6 or sporty 1.8 engines. (Alternatively, you could plumb for the 1.9 turbo diesel if you want to save money fast.) 1997's Top Family Car can be yours from just £11,070, on the road. All Bravas are also available with Fiat's Flexible Easiplan*, which offers a host of unique ways to drive a new Fiat. So what family car will get your vote? The one that's better than your kid's friend's dad's car, of course. Call 0800 71 7000, <http://www.fiat.co.uk> or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information.

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Second Hun Sen target dies mysteriously

A prominent ally of the ousted Cambodian leader, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, has been found dead in mysterious circumstances in the capital, officials said yesterday.

Chau Sambath, labelled a "terrorist" by the coup leader, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, was one of four prominent Ranariddh supporters targeted for arrest by the country's new regime. On Tuesday, Hun Sen's men killed the new leader's vocal opponent Ho Sok one day after he was arrested. Also on Hun Sen's arrest list are the former First Prime Minister's military commander, Nhek Bunshay, and his senior security adviser, Seray Kosol.
AP – Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Kenyan police attack students

Kenyan authorities closed the University of Nairobi amid violent clashes with hundreds of students who said they supported opposition demands for constitutional changes before elections later this year. Scores of students were wounded at the main campus as heavily armed riot police moved in, breaking down doors and looting; the students were dragged out and clubbed while their possessions were vandalised.
Reuters – Nairobi

Socialist victory in Albania

Albania's Socialists and their allies have won a two thirds majority in elections called to end months of anarchy, election officials said. The central elections commission said that, following two rounds of voting on 29 June and 6 July, the formerly Communist group had won at least 107 of the 155 parliamentary seats.
Reuters – Tirana

Fifteen die in shrapnel blast

A shrapnel bomb exploded during a test conducted at a military airfield in southern Romania, killing 15 workers and seriously injuring one other, a senior government official said.
Reuters – Bucharest

Father tried to sell daughter

A 22-year-old father has been convicted of trying to sell his one-year-old daughter for \$800 (£500). Billy Ray Baldwin will be sentenced later this month. The jury that convicted him on Tuesday recommended he spend a year in prison. His wife Christa, 17, had also been charged in the case but pleaded guilty in juvenile court in exchange for probation and community service.
AP – Harlan, Kentucky

Russians paid in pineapples

Pineapples are cheaper than potatoes in the Russian port of Tiganog because dockers have been paid with tins of the fruit rather than in roubles, Itar-Tass news agency said. It added that the dockers were selling the tins on the streets to raise cash to buy food for their families.
Reuters – Moscow

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Surprised? You shouldn't be. Seven out of ten people (71%) throughout the country want hunting with hounds abolished according to a new MORI poll released today.

68% of rural people believe that those who want to hunt should only take part in drag hunting where no animal is killed.

72% of rural people believe the interests of hunted animals should come ahead of the interests of those who wish to hunt with dogs.

57% of rural people do not believe that hunting with hounds is necessary to control the numbers of animals such as foxes.

73% of rural people support a ban on deer hunting. So much for urban arrogance.



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Below post: Kuwaiti women carrying the body of a dead woman past burning oilfields during the Gulf War. Photograph: Associated Press

European Masters - Portugal is the only team to have qualified for the first qualifying round of the European Cup this season. The team is charged with social and political issues.

Yesterday's draw brought the two teams together for their first meeting since the end of hostilities which saw the break-up of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. The teams were in the old Yugoslav first division in 1991.

Portugal secretary Zoran Zivkovic said: "It's just a football match. We but others will see it differently." Markovic, Croatia's coach, said: "We believe in the better side and there is no other side to add."

Portugal's first match was a 1-0 win over Croatia in the first round of the competition. The match was held in Lisbon.

Portugal's first match was a 1-0 win over Croatia in the first round of the competition. The match was held in Lisbon.

ficant shorts

1 Hun Sen target mysteriously

AP - Phnom Penh, Cambodia - A mysterious explosion targeted the home of Hun Sen, the prime minister of Cambodia, on Monday. The explosion occurred in the Phnom Penh area. Hun Sen is the leader of the Cambodian People's Party.

police attack students

Reuters - A group of students in a city in Cambodia were attacked by police on Monday. The students were protesting against the government.

it victory in Albania

Reuters - A group of students in a city in Albania were attacked by police on Monday. The students were protesting against the government.

die in shrapnel blast

Reuters - A group of students in a city in Albania were attacked by police on Monday. The students were protesting against the government.

tried to sell daughter

AP - A woman in a city in Albania was tried for selling her daughter on Monday. The woman was charged with human trafficking.

was paid in pineapples

Reuters - A group of students in a city in Albania were attacked by police on Monday. The students were protesting against the government.

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the new nato

Alliance warns Bosnia's warring factions

Christopher Bellamy
and Elizabeth Nash
Madrid

As the Nato summit in Madrid drew to a close yesterday, Nato's supreme commander issued the sternest warning yet to the former warring factions in Bosnia. He told opponents of the elected Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic, not to "miscalculate" and attempt to unseat her.

And he said that although he had not received orders to go in and arrest indicted war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, he would do so as soon as they came through.

The comments, by US General George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, suggest a change in the Nato-led stabilisation force's (S-For) mandate is imminent. He reit-

thority. Last week Bosnian Serb television reported that new orders had been given to go and arrest war criminals, which Nato and S-For denied.

"I have received no instructions to conduct such an operation. It is the responsibility of the [local] parties to bring these war criminals to justice", Gen Joulwan said. Pressed as to whether S-For was about to go and get them, he said: "Let me get the guidance first".

Yesterday Britain and Spain went some way to patching up the dispute over Gibraltar that erupted at the summit on Tuesday. The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and his counterpart, Abel Matutes, agreed that their countries' Nato ambassadors would discuss the "practicalities" of resolving disputes over Gibraltar, chiefly Spain's restrictions on air force movements in and out of the colony.

The decision marks the resumption of stalled discussions about military control of Gibraltar's seas and airspace, which is what Britain wanted. It follows Mr Cook's suggestion that he was ready to veto Spain's full integration into Nato unless Madrid eased its restrictions. Mr Cook's remarks, on the opening day of the summit, wounded the Spanish hosts and prompted Mr Matutes to restate Spain's claim to the Rock.

Spain's Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, hailed "the new sense of cohesion in alliance" achieved after the initial divisions before the decision on Tuesday to invite three former Soviet bloc countries to join in the first wave.

Yesterday, any rancour which might have resulted from the US's bulldozing ahead with scant regard for the opinion of most European allies seemed to have evaporated.

Countries which failed to make it into Nato this time - Slovenia and Romania, and the Baltic states, congratulated the new members, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The US said more new members would be invited to join at the next summit, on Nato's 50th anniversary in April 1999.

■ Brussels - European Union officials said they were suspending aid to Republika Srpska, the Serb-controlled part of Bosnia, citing the political crisis and its failure to arrest war criminals, AP reports.

'Our mandate is to arrest people accused of war crimes and turn them over for trial'

erated that S-For is under orders to arrest wanted men if it stumbles on them in the course of its other duties - which it never has.

President Bill Clinton said that if military commanders in Bosnia feel "the risk is appropriate" they have a clear mandate to arrest war criminals. He reaffirmed the Nato mandate to arrest criminals under the Dayton accords but stopped short of saying whether he would bless a paramilitary operation to round up Mr Karadzic and other accused.

"Clearly our mandate is to arrest people who have been accused of war crimes and turn them over for trial if that can be done in the course of fulfilling their other duties and if the commanders feel the risk is appropriate," Mr Clinton said.

He criticised the Bosnian Serb leader's efforts to oust Mrs Plavsic. "We support Mrs Plavsic and what she's trying to do. We oppose the unconstitutional efforts to restrict her au-

Shared bill eases pain of enlargement

How much will enlarging Nato cost? Nobody really knows. Nato's 16 members currently contribute 0.4 of one per cent of their defence budgets to Nato, and the cost increase to countries like the US and Britain would therefore be manageable, writes Christopher Bellamy.

Sources opposed to Nato expansion have estimated that enlargement to embrace three new members will cost the US \$10bn (£6.3bn) and the European Nato members \$40bn, but spread over about 15 years.

Britain pays about 20 per cent of the "subvention" to Nato, so on that basis the British taxpayer will pay about £18bn over 15 years - equivalent to just under a single year's defence budget.

The US Congressional Budget Office puts the cost lower: \$125 bn in total over 15 years, with the US paying around \$19bn.

The greater burden will unquestionably fall on the new members - Poland, Hungary and the Czech republic - themselves. Hungary expects that joining the alliance will increase its military spending by 35 per cent - from about \$600m to \$900m. Poland projects a 20 per cent rise, from \$2.2bn to

\$2.75bn. If the Czech Republic has to make a similar increase - say 25 per cent - its spending will increase from about \$770m a year to \$930m.

Although upgrading the new members' armed forces to Nato standard will undoubtedly cost them money, supporters of enlargement argue it will still be cheaper than each state paying more to ensure its own security. That sounds reasonable, but it is impossible to compare those costs.

Accession to Nato does not mean that the new members have to buy western equipment, but their equipment is getting old and they will have to replace it anyway. Given the problems with Russian after-sales service, it makes sense for them to buy Western - or Israeli - equipment, which will open up an estimated £22bn market.

As Jack Matlock, a former US Ambassador to Moscow said recently, "are free to buy American arms. The question is how they pay for it."

"If the American taxpayer finances them, it would be a direct subsidy to the arms industry. If they pay for them themselves, it could lead to real distortion in these countries' own budgets."



Time for change: Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left), his Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel (right), and other members of the German delegation confer during the last day of the Nato summit in Madrid

Photograph: Reuters

Rebuilding

Christopher Bellamy traces the Alliance's painstaking but relentless route to expansion

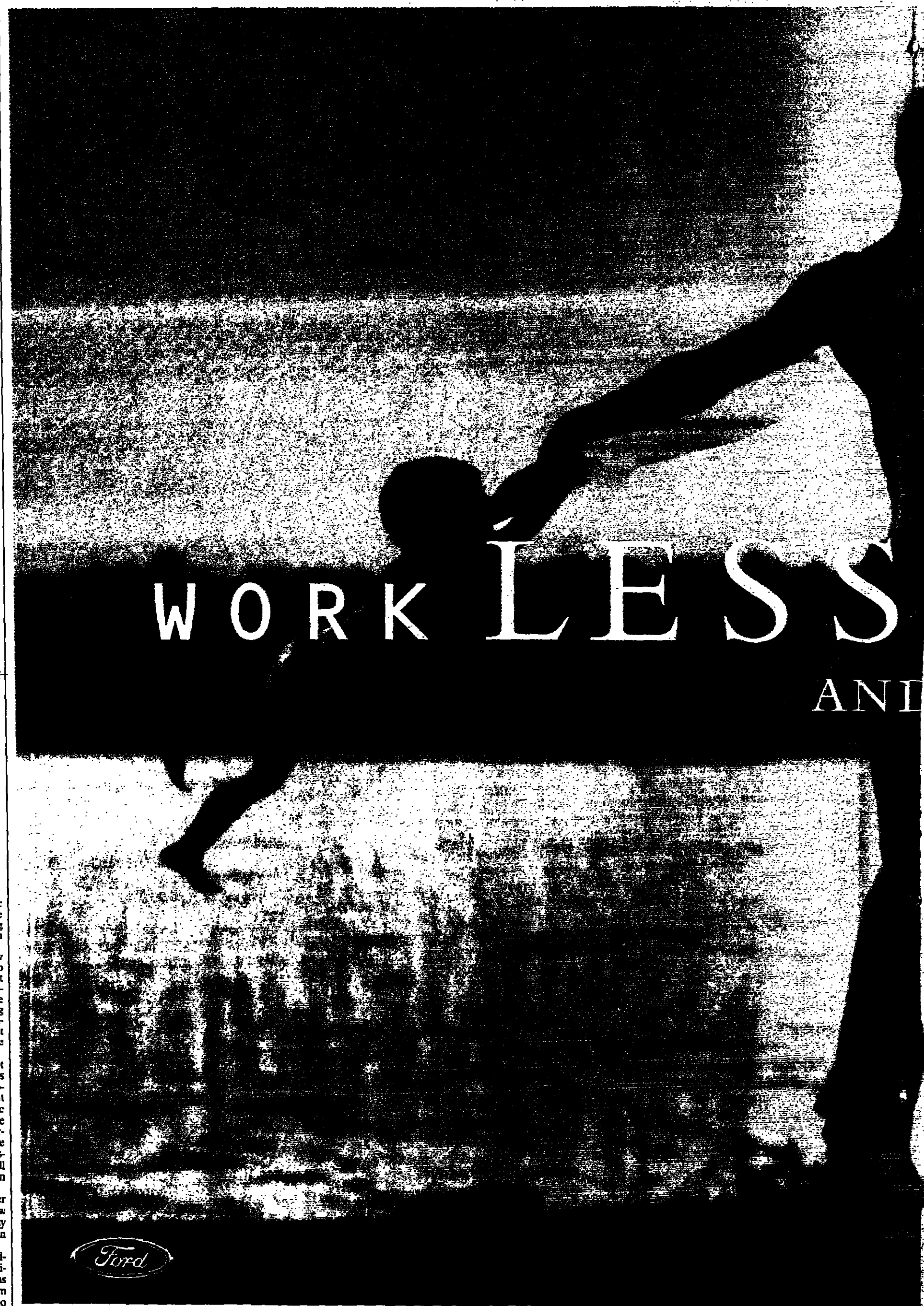
It is less than eight years since the topping of the Berlin Wall kick-started an astounding transformation of the European and world order. In comparison with the revolutionary changes in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in that time, Nato's move towards enlargement announced on Tuesday appears almost cautious, though many believe it should have been more so.

After an initial period of uncertainty, the newly free democracies of eastern Europe began asking for admission to Nato in 1993-94. Nato leaders did not initially want the Alliance to enlarge, and many senior figures, especially those with Cold War experience, still do not want it to do so. But Tuesday's announcement confirms it is going to happen. As one senior Nato official put it, it was something on which the Alliance was "doomed to agree".

The road to enlargement began with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the "two plus four" negotiations between the two Germanys and the four occupying powers - the United

States, the then Soviet Union, Britain and France - which led to the reunification of Germany in October 1990. The Warsaw Pact - the military alliance of east European states under Soviet domination officially formed in 1955 - began to break up, a dissolution completed in 1991; the Soviet Union followed in the same year.

Since the beginning of the decade, Nato has had to deal with two big problems in parallel: its own restructuring to reflect a change in the "threats" and risks of a new world order; and how to make enlargement acceptable to those eastern European states which did not want to or could not join Nato, especially Russia and Ukraine.



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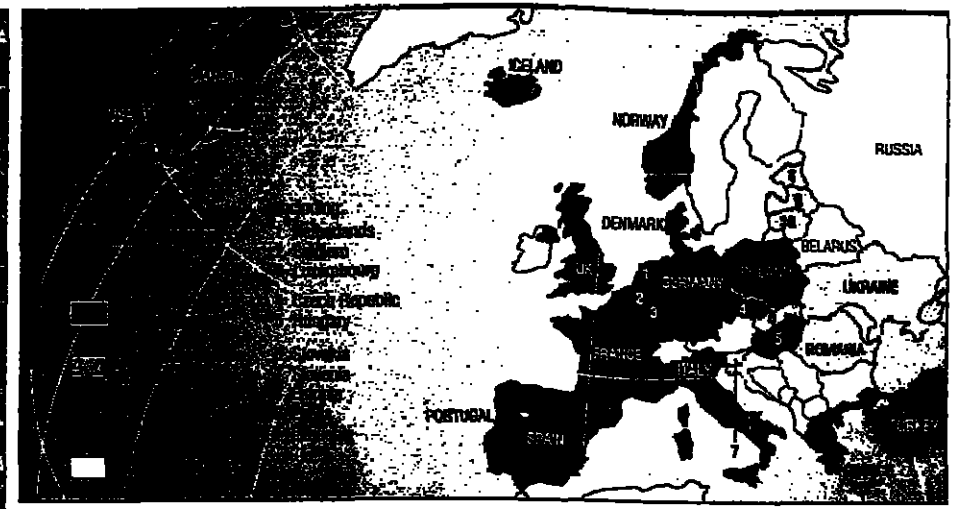
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the new nato

the world order after the fall of the Berlin Wall



Cold warriors: The absorption of eastern Germany after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 was the first step in Nato's eastward enlargement. The Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991.



Photograph: Hufton Getty

The absorption of eastern Germany, reunified with the West into Nato, was the first step in the Alliance's eastward enlargement. Many people – including senior Russian officials – have since claimed that assurances were given that after subsuming eastern Germany, Nato would expand eastward no further. Nato officials have always denied that. The two plus-four talks, they

say, were all about Nato's presence in eastern Germany after reunification. That may have been true at the time, but it may also have given the Russians the impression Nato had given an undertaking not to enlarge further. It was not until 1993 that the newly free democracies of eastern Europe started clamouring for admission to Nato. As one senior Nato official put it, "hav-

ing realised it was nice to be out of the prison, they said 'we'd like to be in a hotel, please'". They also wanted to join the European Union. But Nato membership was the next best thing. Meanwhile, the Nato London summit of July 1990 began the shift towards a new Nato role, though that process is still incomplete. The summit agreed

changes to nuclear strategy until then frozen in the Cold War mould – and "extended the hand of friendship" to Russia, resulting in the creation of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council as a forum for co-operation between Nato – the 16 – and Russia – "plus one". At the Rome summit the following year, Nato initiated a "new strategic concept", though it differed little from

the old one and Nato has only just agreed to revise its strategic orientation to reflect the new world order. Russia had huge problems with the idea of Nato enlarging. Its senior generals and internationally-minded politicians could see the advantages of a new and friendly relationship with the West. But as Russia's economy continued to crumble, they had to main-

tain face in front of a domestic audience which had been brought up to see Nato as Napoleon, Hitler, the Teutonic Knights and the grandsons of Genghis Khan (all of whom had invaded Russia) rolled into one. They had always maintained security by keeping the "enemy" as far away as possible – and here was the "enemy" moving inexorably towards them. There was a real risk that a new iron curtain would go up, east of any new Nato members. In order to prevent that happening, the door to Nato had to be left open for a second wave of new members, and other agreements had to be made with the states which were unlikely ever to join.

At the Brussels summit in 1994, Nato began the Partnership for Peace programme, which now embraces virtually all Nato and east European states, including Russia. Joint military exercises were begun, to provide an indication of whether enlargement was feasible. The final approach to enlargement began with the Berlin summit in June 1996. The geopolitical and strategic questions of enlargement could not be divorced from the domestic politics of the main players. In the US, powerful constituencies in the mid-West were of Polish or Czech ances-

try – and the US was in an election year. The draconian nature of the Nato security guarantee made it very attractive to the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians. Earlier this year, the US government came down in favour of three new members.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Nato's conventional forces outnumbered those of Russia three-to-one. With the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, it would be four to one. The Russians also had domestic reasons for their stance, leading to displays of anger in public acceptance in private. In the end, Russia realised it had no choice but to accept Nato enlargement – it just had to sell it to its own people. On 27 May, Nato and Russia signed the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security.

The long road to enlargement is not over: all 16 Nato nations have to ratify the accession of the first three new members to be invited. When they join, in April 1999, the invitations to the next wave will probably be issued.

What matters now is whether the military forces of states which were opponents until 1991 can work together efficiently. The pieces of paper are only useful if they reflect reality. That is why it has taken so long.



Schweik and his chums finally join club West

Christopher Bellamy

The Good Soldier Schweik is joining Nato. The distinctly un-military character, the creation of the Czech writer Jaroslav Hasek, has become an emblem of a certain rather cynical attitude to military life – not, perhaps, the best augury for a new member of the world's most successful military alliance.

In reality, the new members will bring a lot more to Nato than this. Since expansion first came on to the agenda, alliance officials have said that any country joining must contribute security to Nato, as well as benefiting from that which it provides. The choice of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as the first three new recruits from East Europe is therefore entirely logical. Nato is welcoming three new members with formidable military traditions and expertise.

They bring armed forces of 400,000 to Nato and an area equivalent to Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic have been working closely with Nato for some time, and the British Army has begun training in Poland. The Czechs provided chemical-warfare experts in the 1991 Gulf war and all three countries have since been working alongside Nato forces in Bosnia.

The biggest task will be to teach Polish, Hungarian and Czech officers the two official Nato languages – English and French. The main areas where more integration is necessary are air defence and air-traffic control, and the secure trunk communications systems necessary to enable Polish, Czech or Hungarian formations and units to receive orders from and report back to a higher Nato headquarters.

Most of the effort will go into ensuring the new members can satisfy the parliaments of the 16 present Nato members that civilian control of the military is sufficiently well established and that they can operate effectively with other Nato forces.

Poland will be the fifth-largest military power in Nato after the US, Britain, France and Germany and will have to take an appropriate share of senior Nato appointments.

The Poles, from Jan Sobieski's defeat of the Turkish armies before Vienna in 1683, through the Polish lancers' contribution to Napoleon's forces, to Marshal Josef Pilsudski's near-destruction of Soviet Russia in 1920, have maintained a reputation for daring manoeuvre which translated easily into war in the air, for which they also evinced remarkable aptitude.

Polish and Czech squadrons of the RAF scored exceptionally well against the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain. The Poles also distinguished themselves as airborne soldiers, with a brigade parachuted into Arnhem. Polish codebreakers laid the ground for cracking the German Enigma codes, which gave Britain and the US a decisive advantage. As members of the

The biggest task will be teaching Polish, Czech and Hungarian officers English and French

Warsaw Pact, the Poles, although poorly equipped by the Soviet Union, produced a distinctive train of military thought, especially with the development of deep-penetration operational manoeuvre groups in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Hungarians have made their own distinctive contribution to military history. A hussar – a type of light cavalryman – is Hungarian in origin.

The Czechs, too, have a distinguished military history, particularly in armaments. The massive siege guns which cracked open the Belgian forts in 1914 were built by Skoda. Skoda later built extremely robust and powerful tanks, which benefited the Germans after they seized Czechoslovakia. And the Czechs produced a superb light machine-gun at their works at Brno, near the Slovak border. The British adopted it, and manufactured it at their small-arms establishment at Enfield as the Bren gun – the Bren gun.

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An important message to all our customers.

On 10th and 11th July, we regret that British Airways flights will be disrupted due to industrial action.

However, we are endeavouring to operate as many services as possible, and we can confirm that the following flights will not be affected:

- All flights to and from regional airports - Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh & Glasgow (except those to and from London Heathrow).
- All domestic & European flights to and from London Gatwick.
- The following franchise & Alliance operated flights:

BA998-999 BA3000-3499 BA4000-4199	BA4600-4999 BA6200-6449 BA6700-6749	BA6800-6999 BA7400-7499 BA7600-7949	BA8000-8199 BA8200-8299 BA8300-8450	BA8700-8839 BA8840-8899
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- The following specific flights to and from London will also operate as normal during this period:

Intercontinental flights - London Heathrow				Intercontinental flights - London Gatwick	
Miami	BA293/BA292	Tbilisi & Biskek	BA6711/BA6712	Dallas	BA2193/BA2192
Chicago	BA297/BA296 BA299/BA298	Alexandria & Damascus	BA6707/BA6708	Miami	BA2295/BA2294
New York	BA175/BA174 BA179/BA176 BA001/BA004 BA003/BA002	Dubai & Muscat	BA123/BA122	Houston	BA2225/BA2224
Boston	BA215/BA214 BA213/BA212	Bahrain & Abu Dhabi	BA125/BA124 BA005/BA006 BA007/BA008	Pittsburgh	BA2199/BA2198
Los Angeles	BA269/BA268 BA279/BA278 BA283/BA282	Tokyo	BA027/BA028 BA029/BA030	Tampa	BA4517/BA4516
Johannesburg & Durban	BA055/BA054	Hong Kong & Taipei	BA025/BA026	Antigua & Grenada	BA2253/BA2252
Johannesburg & Gaborone	BA055/BA054 BA057/BA056	Hong Kong & Manila	BA031/BA032	Barbados & St. Lucia	BA2255/BA2254 BA2257/BA2256
Johannesburg	BA6705/BA6706	Bangkok, Sydney & Melbourne	BA009/BA010	Barbados	
Amman	BA6701/BA6702	Bangkok, Sydney & Brisbane	BA009/BA010	Nassau & Grand Cayman	BA4505/BA4504 BA2267/BA2266
Beirut	BA6703/BA6702	Singapore & Perth	BA011/BA012	Buenos Aires	BA2245/BA2244
Damascus & Amman	BA6707/BA6708 BA015/BA016			Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro	
Singapore				Nairobi & Entebbe	A2069/BA2068
				Nairobi & Dar Es Salaam	BA2069/BA2068 BA2069/BA2068
				Nairobi	

Domestic and European flights - London Heathrow

More than a quarter of European services will be operating as normal, but no domestic services.

On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July, some flights may also be affected whilst we return to normal service. For further information on these and other flights not listed above, either:

1. contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop
2. look on ITV teletext p.380
3. visit our website at www.british-airways.com/strike
4. or call our information line 0800 727 800.

We would like to offer our sincerest apologies to any customers who are being inconvenienced by the current action. Rest assured that we are doing all that we can to keep disruption to a minimum and most importantly to bring this dispute to a satisfactory conclusion as soon as possible. If your flight is affected, we will endeavour to organise alternative travel arrangements for you to reach your destination.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

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obituaries / gazette

Harrison Marks

Harrison Marks was a byword for the softest kind of soft pornography, a smut pedlar who became a self-perpetuating legend. He was twice bankrupt, twice arrested and four times married, a vaudeville act at heart who pioneered porn in Britain and lived all his life in the same house where he was born.

To say that Marks's work has any lasting merit would be to extend to it, and to him, a dignity that was most notably lacking. Yet his name was synonymous with an instantly identifiable product throughout three decades: it symbolised airbrushed genitalia and semi-nude nudity, and was ultimately enshrined in a film title that epitomised his whole life and career, *The Naked World of Harrison Marks* (1965).

His reputation began as a photographer of a very specific type of nude, airbrushed beyond curiosity. His photographs, first widely distributed in his own publication, *Kamera*, in 1957, were of voluptuous and sometimes not-so-voluptuous girls in contrived settings, in studios not much bigger than the average-sized kitchen; indeed on many occasions, the studio was Marks's own kitchen.

These magazines, fondly remembered from many a schoolboy's locker room, together with tourist publications like *Health and Efficiency* and the "men's" magazines *Men Only* and *Lilliput* (Marks supplied photographs to both publications) were, in a bygone age, the only official sighting of naked women allowed to be published in Britain, and were much appreciated, and indeed cherished, in those sweet, naïve post-war days. From still photography it was but a simple step to "glamour" and Marks became a supplier of 8mm films, readily available over the counter of camera shops, but easily supplied discreetly by post.

Marks was not a trained photographer at all, but a former

stand-up comedian, half of an act called Harrison and Stuart, a teenage duo that had appeared in variety halls towards the end of the music hall in the late Forties and early Fifties. The act collapsed, in Hull, in 1951, when Marks pulled out.

He had begun to take photographs of fellow music-hall performers, among them the young Norman Wisdom. Wisdom later starred at the Prince of Wales Theatre in London, in a 1952 revue called *Paris to Piccadilly*, the latest of a long line of shows purporting to bring Folies Bergère naughtiness to an austere post-war London. Bragg about his connection to Wisdom, Marks managed to secure a job snapping the showgirls, one of whom was to change his life for ever.

Pamela Green was a former art student turned nude model and showgirl. Her influence on Marks was formidable: his muse and lover, she also, more importantly, informed every aspect of his glamour photography from buying the props and clothes to dressing the sets. Furthermore, since she was a professional photographer and print finisher, she would airbrush out her own pudenda in Marks's glamour photographs to allow them to be reproduced throughout Britain (abroad public hair was quite acceptable, even necessary). Influenced by nude photographers like Alan Duncan, Walter Bird, and John Everard, Marks and Green invariably dressed in lingerie by Weiss of Shaftesbury Avenue and became, if not exactly a household duo, certainly an under-the-table one.

In 1959 a shrewd film distributor, Nat Miller, had imported the American naturist movie *Garden of Eden* into England, to find it passed by local authorities with a "U" certificate. With the naked floodgates open, as it were, Miller produced his own home-grown

nude movie, *Naked Paradise*, and made a small fortune tapping into an obvious British cinematic need. It was logical for Marks to gravitate upwards from 8mm to 35mm and in 1961 he produced *Naked as Nature Intended*, a nude romp starring Pamela Green. Its title has passed into the vernacular.

Arguably the most famous British nudist film of all, *Naked as Nature Intended* ran for an astounding two years in the West End, and recently surfaced on video. Of its 58 minutes' running time, much is spent in travelogue as five girls, Green included, take a scenic tour of Land's End. Once there, at the once-famous Spielplatz Naturism Club, clothes and inhibitions are doffed. Filmed as *Cornish Holiday*, this witless, scriptless farago co-starred Marks's old vaudeville partner Stuart Samuel, in a variety of guises, as every man the girls meet.

Marks fully intended to shoot a nudist feature, but took the precaution of meeting John Trevelyan, secretary of the British Board of Film Censors, before shooting commenced. He proffered no script (there wasn't one) and Trevelyan duly acknowledged the film's respectability when the founder of the British Naturism Movement (and also the owner of the Spielplatz Sun Camp) sanctioned the film. Although the resulting opus was utterly senseless, Trevelyan insisted on cutting the opening sequence, claiming that the lounging girls could be mistaken for lesbians.

Virtually before it had finished its first run, the film was an anachronism. Under Trevelyan, film censorship was easing considerably, and many French imports were playing circuit houses, purveying a form of naughtiness indelibly identified with the Continent. Undeterred, in 1963 Marks produced and directed *The Naked World of Harrison Marks*, and remedied it with additional se-

quences in 1969 as *The Nine Ages of Nakedness*. He also then made an immensely successful sex-and-horror film, *Pattern of Evil*, never shown in the UK.

Green, meanwhile, had achieved her apotheosis by featuring in Michael Powell's essay in sadism *Peeping Tom* (1960), whilst Marks delighted in casting himself in his own films in random characterisations revealing a noticeable lack of subtlety, talent or acting ability. With his profits, he cast himself and his old music-hall partner in an unsuccessful 45-minute-long featurette, *The Chimney Sweeps*, and also made comedy shorts for both children's television and charity.

Green left Marks in 1961: he had become a personal disaster, an alcoholic who was spending money as though it was going out of style. In 1971 he was tried at the Old Bailey for dealing in pornography by post, and his empire of smut came tumbling down.

He was rescued by the sex tsar David Sullivan, who financed *Come Play With Me* (1977), a typical Marks project sold as a sex romp starring Mary Millington, but actually sub-*Carry On*-style, featuring Marks's beloved variety performers, including Alfie Bass delivering a comic song and dance.

The film made money, but the abolition of the Eady Levy on film and the arrival of the home video-cassette recorder signalled the end of the British sex movie, at least for cinemas. Marks's drinking became heavier and his appearance and speech more eccentric. He made sadomasochistic films and videotapes for European distribution, and produced a spanking magazine, *Kane*.

Tony Stoman

George Harrison Marks, film-maker: born London 6 August 1926; four times married (one daughter); died London 27 June 1997.



Marks, with Dawn Grayson, on the set of *The Naked World of Harrison Marks*, 1965. Photograph: Kobal

Vanda Jones

At a time when visiting the National Film Theatre in London was both a treat and a pleasure and one felt that the management cared about the comfort and welfare of the members, the imposing and grandly welcoming figure of Vanda Jones was prominently visible in the theatre foyer, always available for conversation, praise or complaint. She knew many of the members by name, recognised and greeted them, and always revealed a deep understanding and true love for cinema.

Her working life became inextricably intertwined with the NFT, where she commenced work as an assistant sales manager, in 1960. She graduated to usherette, though such a term seems wholly inadequate for what Vanda Jones actually did: she ensured that the team of NFT staff was hand-picked, insisting that they all share a total dedication to the cinema. Many of the chosen were unemployed actresses, painters, poets, writers, and film-makers; unsurprisingly, many of "Vanda's girls" went on to careers in the arts.

In 1974 Jones became official floor manager; in 1977 she was appointed to front-of-house; and in 1986 became assistant theatre manager. She loathed personal publicity, and deliberately shrouded her background in mystery, save to say that she had once acted and indeed had her portrait taken by the noted theatrical photographer Angus McBean. But she had a heart that reached out to all who knew her, and she was generous with her time and energy to those who called upon her. Deep friendships were struck up amongst her staff and members, and film critics and historians were forever in her debt, as were many victims of the carbonic film commentary, when the on-the-spot translator proved to be the erudite and accomplished Vanda Jones.

The opening of the new Museum of the Moving Image in 1988 made Jones's duties at the NFT onerous: she was, after all, in love with cinema and indeed all the arts, and did not particularly view herself in the role of museum janitor, closing up at the end of the day. Unsympathetic internal management put her into a position where she tendered her resignation, fully expecting her reasons to be investigated and her tenure left unblemished. But her resignation was unceremoniously accepted, and after 33 years of service to the NFT, Jones "retired" in 1993.

Vanda Jones was part of the unofficial goodwill PR that the National Film Theatre could surely do with today. Her value was never truly recognised by contemporary management, and her loss is doubly felt for her being under-appreciated.

Tony Stoman

Vanda Jones, theatre administrator: born 14 March 1933; died London 28 June 1997.

Lord Horder

Mervyn Horder was an old-fashioned gentleman publisher at a time when old-fashioned gentlemanly publishing was scarcely visible. As chairman of Duckworth for 22 years, from 1948 to 1970, he never attained the distinction established by the firm's founder, Gerald Duckworth, or later achieved under his successor Colin Haycraft, but he quietly kept up its useful backlist, published a series of decent books, and acquired a few outstanding authors – though he often seemed proud of those Duckworth had notoriously rejected, including John Galsworthy, D.H. Lawrence, James Joyce and Evelyn Waugh.

Horder was very much a member of the Establishment – son and heir of the first Baron Horder, the royal physician to three monarchs; educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge; an intelligence officer in the Royal Air



Horder: ostentatiously mean

Force during and after the Second World War, becoming a wing commander and being mentioned in dispatches. But he showed little or nothing of this.

He never took his hereditary seat in the House of Lords, or expressed much interest in political or social affairs. He never displayed his wealth, much of

which he quietly gave away. He was almost ostentatiously mean with himself, and took no trouble with appearances. He lived in cramped flats. He drove an old car or rode an old bicycle, both very carefully. He bought cheap and nasty clothes and cut his own hair.

When he took people out for a meal, whether important colleagues or important authors, it was to a pub near the office in Covent Garden rather than one of the posh restaurants in the area. His conversation was an entertaining combination of genuine modesty with a touch of malice, supported by profound learning and expressed with much wit.

He had shown no interest in his father's profession, but went straight into publishing after university. He worked at Methuen and Nelson, joined Duckworth before the war, and afterwards took it over.

Perhaps his particular favourites among his authors were William McGonagall and Ronald Firbank, and he enjoyed publishing omnibus editions of two such widely contradictory writers (I well remember transcribing some of Firbank's hilarious notebooks for him). He edited Ronald Firbank's *memoirs and critiques* (1977), and he wrote two books of his own – *The Little Genius* (1966), a biography of his father, and *On Their Own: shipwrecks and survivors* (1988). He enjoyed introducing people to one another, and through him I met such varied figures as the novelist Anthony Powell, the veteran bookman Alan Harris, C.R. Hewitt ("C.H. Rolph"), Trevor Hall, the ghost-buster, and Eileen Garrett, the millionaire medium.

When he handed Duckworth over to Colin Haycraft, he stayed on for a time, but he spent less and less time on publishing and more and more on writing, contributing gossip and reviews and obituaries to several papers, often anonymously or pseudonymously. He also spent more time on his real love, music, playing the piano and singing, composing and publishing, never with much success but always with much joy.

He was briefly and unhappily married after the war, but his true sexual orientation was firmly homosexual, with leanings towards exhibitionism (he used to pose as an artist's model, and he was twice convicted on ridiculous charges of sending obscene material through the post). This side of his life was well known, at least in the book trade, but was ignored partly because it was considered irrelevant but also because he was so universally popular in what was in those days a friendly community.

One of the happiest years of my life was spent working for the eldest boss I had. When Duckworth published books by my father and grandfather, Mervyn Horder became their publisher as well as their publisher, and later became my friend and, then my employer as well. When he heard that I had taken over a little anarchist magazine he offered free office space to produce it, and when he heard that I was looking for better work in publishing he offered a job as his assistant.

From 1961 to 1962 I read and edited manuscripts, corrected proofs, and wrote blurbs and advertisements under Horder's imperceptible supervision. I never got to know him well, but I appreciated his gentle kindness, and afterwards when we met for an occasional drink I continued to enjoy his wide knowledge and dry humour. When I got married I

couldn't afford to live on the low salary which was all Duckworth could afford. But when I gave notice he showed no resentment. He took us out to lunch, came to our wedding, persuaded a rich friend to give us a huge present which paid for our honeymoon, and himself gave us a pair of revolting mugs which we got rid of as soon as we dared.

Mervyn Horder named his recreations as music and idling. If by the latter he meant taking life easy, and giving and having as much harmless pleasure as possible, he was right.

Nicolas Walter

Thomas Mervyn Horder, publisher: born 8 December 1910; chairman, Gerald Duckworth & Co 1948-70; succeeded 1955 as second Baron Horder; married 1946 Mary McDougall (marriage dissolved 1957); died London 3 July 1997.

Al Berto

A figure of almost translucent fragility, Al Berto was a Portuguese poet whose physical appearance seemed an exhalation of his rarefied verse.

I had looked in vain for his works in the bookshops of Lisbon and Coimbra, but was lucky to find a couple of French translations, published by the brave little Bordeaux poetry press L'Escaupette, in the Librairie Hispano-Lusophone in Paris. One of them, *La Peur et les signes*, a beautiful translation by Michel Chadeigne, has a title in which the words "fear" and "signs" shine like emblems

of the poet's own almost indefinable terrors and mystical obsession with signs and omens. That 1993 translation was followed by another in 1996, *La Secrecie: vie des images*; again, signs and secrets. The title of his best-known book, *O Medo* (1988) means, simply, "Fear".

His real name was one of similar complexity – Alberto Raposo Pidwell Tavares, so understandably he preferred to be known as Al Berto, one of the few simplifications he managed to achieve in his short life, which began on the charming Alentejo coast south of the Tagus.

His early ambition was to be an artist and a photographer, but with the outbreak of the war of independence in Angola, during the last years of Salazar's dictatorship, Al Berto sought exile in that most welcoming of cities for sensitive souls, Brussels. Shortly after the "Revolution of the Carnations" he returned to what Ronald Firbank called "fairly Lisbon", then far from fairylike, and divided his life between the capital and his birthplace, Sines.

Al Berto became a prolific poet. The greater part of his work is contained in *O Medo*, which

was awarded the Portuguese Pen Club's prize for poetry in 1988, and which assembled work composed between 1974 and 1985. It is a poetry of post-symbolist anguish and trembling awareness of an all-too-intrusive reality, but its rather narrow emotional range is one of the utmost refinement and clarity. An older poet and critic, Ramos Rosa, defined Al Berto's shimmering intangibility as "the cry of an extreme and irreducible fragility in human beings, of their infinite disarray, their absolute and desperate revolt against the fatality of being born".

Al Berto himself hazarded that he wrote "in order to survive life" and hinted that for him "writing was the best way to burn oneself out".

His shy, intimate tone gently detaches him from conventional imagery and metaphor, as being perhaps too crude a resort for such hesitant expression of unspeakable feelings, and prefers subtly narrative description and a private, subdued conversational mood, sometimes dangerously skirting poetic prose. It is this constant denial of the obvious and the showy that watercolours his lu-

minous style, what Ramos Rosa called "the sovereignty of erotic force submerged in the impulse towards death".

Just a short walk from the Pompidou Centre is a quiet alley off the rue Saint-Martin where stands one of the great unsung glories of Parisian literary life, the Théâtre Molière at Maison de la Poésie. In a deeply sympathetic small theatre, Michel de Maunier organises remarkably eclectic and international programmes of contemporary poetry led by the poets themselves whenever possible in their native lan-

guage, and by well-trained French speakers of poetic translations. It was there, in March this year, that a number of Portuguese poets were invited to perform from their works, and among them was Al Berto, notably nervous, his tall, slender body apparently racked by regrets at having to expose his art in public, and his face bearing in its only self-defence a timidly ironic half-smile. He was already in the last stages of the cancer from which he was to die.

Here is part of a poem, that was read from *Fear and the signs* after evoking the spirits

of the fellow-tormented Rimbaud and Cavafy, the poet takes leave of us:

... from now on I abandon you for ever to the silence of one who wrote verses in Portugal you are thirty-seven like Rimbaud perhaps it's time to think of dying.

Al Berto had just published his final book, *Horro de incêndio* ("Burning Vegetable Plot").

James Kirkup

Alberto Raposo Pidwell Tavares, poet: born Sines, Portugal 1948; died 13 June 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

MARRIAGES

CHILVERS / TUCKER: Dr Julian and Katherine, on Saturday 28 June 1997, at St Oswald's Church, Durham. The reception was held at Headlam Hall.

DEATHS

HARDY: Constance Hannah, chair of Warrington Cricket Society, who had a passion for the town and campaigned tirelessly for its good, died at her home in Appleton on 2 July. She was in her sixties.

IN MEMORIAM

LIDDON: To celebrate the life of my twin Susan Emily Liddon 1007/48-28.11.97.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL. Telephone 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2018. Charges are 50p a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh are to be married on 10 July 1997. The Duke of Edinburgh is a member of the Order of the Garter. The Queen is a member of the Order of the Garter. The Duke of Edinburgh is a member of the Order of the Garter. The Queen is a member of the Order of the Garter. The Duke of Edinburgh is a member of the Order of the Garter.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. K. Bucknall and Miss A. J. Love

The engagement is announced between Robin Kingsley, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Bucknall, West Sussex, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Love, Newton Meams, Glasgow.

Birthdays

Mr James Aldridge, author, 79; Mr John Arkell, Headmaster, Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, 58; Mr Tony Baldry MP, 47; Mr Tommy Carmody, jockey, 41; Sir John Cockram, former chairman, Richmond Water Co, 89; Sir Arthur Collins, solicitor, 86; Lord Desai, Professor of Economics, London School of Economics, 57; Mr Dawie de Villiers, diplomat and politician, 57; Mr John Dunlop, racehorse trainer, 58; Mrs Winnie Ewing, MEP, 88; Mr Sunil Gavaskar, cricketer, 48; Mr Graham Johnson, pianist, 47; Sir George Kenyon, former chairman, William Kenyon & Sons, 85; Lord Lambton, former government minister, 75;

Professor Ian Lucas, agriculturalist, 71; Sir Kit McMahon, former chairman, Midland Bank, 70; Mr John Malby, former chairman, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, 69; The Very Rev Ivan Neill, former chaplain to the Queen, 85; Sir Leslie Porter, former president, Tesco, 77; Sir Wyn Roberts, former MP, 67; Mr Reg Smythe, cartoonist, 87; Mr Keith Stockpole, cricketer, 57; Dr Gavin Strong, MP, Minister of Transport, 54; Miss Josephine Vasey, opera singer, 67; Miss Virginia Wade, tennis player, 52; Mr Ian Wallace, actor, broadcaster and concert singer, 78; Maj-Gen Sir Philip Ward, Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, 73; Maj-Gen Sir Brian Wyldhouse-Smith, 84.

Anniversaries

Births: John Calvin, religious reformer, 1509. Deaths: (Ferdinand) Jelly Roll Morton, ragtime composer and pianist, 1941. On this day: the Battle of Britain began, 1940; the first parking meters were installed in London, 1938. Today is the Feast Day of St Amelberge, Saints Rufina and Secunda, The Seven Brothers and St Felicity.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the Queen's Life Guard of Her Majesty, will be in full ceremonial dress at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am today. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the Queen's Life Guard of Her Majesty, will be in full ceremonial dress at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am today.

Leave to apply for judicial review given despite delay

LAW REPORT

10 July 1997

Re S's Application for Judicial Review: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Phillips and Lord Justice Waller) 3 July 1997

Where an application for leave to move for judicial review raised questions of public importance in relation to the interpretation of section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and its application to a pregnant woman, who suffered from a physical condition which posed a risk both to her and her unborn child but who refused medical treatment, leave was exceptionally granted despite delay in bringing the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal granted the applicant leave to move for judicial review of the decision of the first respondent to admit and detain her under section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 for the purpose of assessment in a hospital under the control of the second respondent, and to challenge her detention by the second respondent.

spontaneous, her transfer to and detention in a hospital under the control of the third respondent, the caesarian section performed on her there, and her transfer back to the first hospital. Leave to move had been refused by Mr Justice Popplewell on the ground of delay. Richard Gordon QC and Barbara Hewson (Leigh Day & Co) for the applicant; Beverly Lang (Solicitor, Marjon Borough Council) for the first respondent; Philip Davies QC and Monica Cross-Fisk (Bovon Ashford, Bristol) for the second and third respondents.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss said that the applicant, who had a deep-seated aversion to medical intervention, had become pregnant in September 1995 and had not sought antenatal care until the eighth month of her pregnancy, when she was found to be suffering from severe pre-eclampsia. That posed a risk to

her life and to the unborn child. Immediate admission to hospital was recommended. The applicant refused to be admitted or to have treatment.

The first respondent, an applicant's original application was lodged on 6 December 1996, the three-month time limit having expired on 2 August.

Three principal matters had been raised on the applicant's behalf on the appeal: the construction and application of section 2 to the compulsory admission of the applicant to the hospital; her detention in and transfer to and from both hospitals; and the circumstances in which the applicant said she had not been kept informed of the hearing before the judge and had been denied access to the court and a fair trial. It was submitted that all those issues were of such public importance that judicial review was

the proper way for them to be considered.

Counsel for the respondents had relied on *R v Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales*, ex p *Andrew* [1996] Vol 8 Admin LR 557. Whilst agreeing with the firm approach set out in that case, there was another line of authority dealing with issues of public importance: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department*, ex p *Ruddock* [1987] 1 WLR 1482 and *R v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*, ex p *World Development Movement* [1995] 1 WLR 386.

The general importance of the matter raised in the application must constitute a good reason to extend time even though in most cases the delay would be a complete bar to granting leave. Applying those propositions to the present case, it might be argued by way of moving for judicial review.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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How British Airways can fly out of the storm



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In the matter of British Airways vs the Transport & General Workers' Union, who exactly is right? If this dispute were in the pre-privatisation mid-Eighties, when the battle with trade-union power was not quite convincingly won and the liberty of managers to manage still unproven, we can be confident that the overwhelming establishment view would be simply that it was wrong to strike, wrong to disrupt passengers' lives, wrong to believe that unions could tell businesses how they should be run.

Thankfully, the world is more complicated and subtle than that today. Latent in the Thatcher ideology was a presumption that all strikes were wrong. Some on the right sincerely believed that if you enforced ballots for every strike, industrial action would become a thing of the past. It is true: ideally, strikes never would happen. In a paradisaical economy, employees would see the damage that a dispute would do to their collective prospects, while managers would see that their long-term interests lay in maintaining committed and motivated staff. But in this world, the real one, sensible and committed employees will vote for strike action, and well-led managements will fight their staff, because for a multitude of reasons they cannot find a solution without testing each other's strength and will.

This dispute is no different. Behind it lies a complex of causes, and it is

worth spending a moment disentangling them. Bob Ayling (revered modern man/notorious boss figure, depending on your perspective) needs to broker a sequence of deals which re-invents BA as a company whose core activities are wholly staffed, whose support activities are wholly franchised, and which succeeds thereby in cutting roughly £1bn off its running costs over the next several years.

In this laudable project Mr Ayling has made significant progress. Most of his employees have agreed to one or another new arrangement which either transfers their work to an outside contractor on agreed terms, or reorganises their employment with BA on a new basis. But now he has hit at least one major barrier, in the form of the stewards and stewardesses' branch of the T&G.

History always plays a part in these disputes. In this case, Mr Ayling and his managers have a long-standing desire to see off the air crew branch, because they have found it obstructive in the past. Really, one suspects, Mr Ayling would prefer that the branch played no role in his business. The branch in turn has placed itself in the role of intrinsigant by walking out of talks in which its breakaway competitor union, Cabin Crew 89, found itself able to reach agreement with BA.

It is easy to see why the cabin crew are annoyed: Mr Ayling thinks they are

paid more than they should be, particularly new recruits, and he wants to restructure their pay. He has guaranteed that existing employees will not see their pay cut - but the implication is that they will not see their pay go up for a long while, either.

Although Mr Ayling is right, he must understand that his folk are not going to be overjoyed. Staff PR, however, which BA has historically been good at, has this time been lamentably poor: as it stands, it is not hard to provoke a member of BA's cabin crew into telling you quite politely but in very caustic terms what he or she thinks

about Mr Ayling and his managers. Meanwhile, the ground staff are threatening to join the dispute, in protest at the terms for having their jobs contracted out. In principle Mr Ayling is again right to draw a distinction between staff who deal directly with the public, such as cabin crews and ticket desk staff, and those who stand in front of an aluminium counter in a west London warehouse stuffing bits of stringy chicken and pale vegetables into foil-wrapped lunch packs. The Ayling principle here is that flying is a people business: where staff have direct contact with the customer, they should be

BA employees: where they don't, they shouldn't. Makes sense - unless you, as an employee, fall victim to a drastic deterioration in working conditions.

It follows that the passage from this world to the brave one needs to be handled with enormous sensitivity. The fact that both sets of employees have voted overwhelmingly for action, and that many seem intent on pursuing it, ought at least to make BA management pause for reflection. At present, union officials are trying to show that they can provide the cost reductions in an alternative way. BA should hear them out, test their assumptions, and respond constructively. Macho manners have no place in managing this kind of process. On that point alone last night's legal threats from BA seem out of place.

But what is the answer to the question, who is right in this dispute?

The important point is that the customers do not really care. What matters to them is that they wish at the moment that they had not booked BA: either that, or they are in the process of choosing not to book BA. That outcome does not help either side in this dispute. It is not doing BA's share price much good, either.

In such circumstances, the side that is right is the one that has the wit to come up with an accommodation that achieves the central restructuring objectives, over time, but leaves the staff feeling that they have not been

trampled upon. Since Mr Ayling has such a reputation for creative management, he should try living up to it. In the end it is not up to the union to find an answer, as he has in effect accepted by rejecting its proposals. It is up to him to get his company out of the hole in a way that enables his employees, and their union, to feel that they have been heard, and understood.

A message that packs a punch

During a House of Lords exchange about Oscar Wilde this week, a peer recalled Oscar Wilde's description of the sport as "the unspeakable in pursuit of the unspeakable", adding that this description should now most appropriately be assigned respectively to Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield. We never imagined that the American boxing authorities would have the courage to do the right thing, but they have fined him and revoked his licence. No apology, however abject, can excuse a boxer who bites off a chunk of an opponent's ear. Tyson should face criminal charges for whatever the US equivalent of grievous bodily harm is, and go back to jail. And his ban should never be lifted. Only that way will the correct message be sent to violent young men the world over.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How we can force Ulster to grow up

Sir: To talk of our options in Northern Ireland as "a choice... of two evils" ("Marchers trample peace hopes", 7 July) is a confession of political sterility. We have one excellent, practical, positive choice to make - to give Northern Ireland its independence, as a small state within the EU.

Its government would learn, the hard way, to obey EU laws and standards, to co-operate closely with its twin, the Republic of Ireland, and generally to grow up politically. As for the IRA, they would have to confront the Irish, of all varieties. Even they would grow up. GEORGE DUFF Durham

Sir: When will the British media realise that with freedom comes responsibility? The treatment of the leaked Drumcree document ("The Ulster gamble that failed", 8 July) is thoroughly irresponsible and should lead to control of the media on issues of national security.

The Conservative Party has continued the tradition of all-party support on the issue of Northern Ireland and as a result there were no comments from Conservative politicians on the leaked document. Instead it was left to the British media to publicise the document. The result has effectively helped to undermine Mo Mowlam's very difficult position of being seen as an independent negotiator seeking a peaceful solution. We have heard leaders of both sides of the Northern Ireland divide state that they could no longer trust Ms Mowlam.

The Government should move quickly to seek an extension of the concept of all-party support to cover the media. This is an issue of national security and in such circumstances the media should behave responsibly. If they do not, perhaps it is time for their freedom to be curtailed. FRANK NEALE Walsford, Hertfordshire

Sir: I find government policy on the Orange marches incomprehensible. In the midst of an endlessly problematic and tortuous peace process, an obvious thing to do is to stop the Orange Order marching through Catholic neighbourhoods and villages. The essential function of the Orange parades as symbols of Protestant domination has been recognised for generations and there can be no doubting the central role they have played historically in fomenting sectarian strife.

For a Labour government to bring the full force of the state - police and troops - to assist in the ritual humiliation of the Catholic community was morally and politically indefensible. ALEX CHRISTIE Aberdeen

Sir: Could someone really be so naive as to think that the future of the peace process, such as it is, was dependent on the Drumcree church parade?

David McKillick and Michael Street ("Marchers trample peace hopes", 7 July) seemed to be of the opinion that the IRA would have called a ceasefire but for Sunday's events. Sinn Féin declared earlier this year that nothing less than a British withdrawal would secure peace in Northern Ireland.

Who was responsible for Canary Wharf, Manchester, and the murder of two policemen in Lurgan, and



what effect did these deeds have on the peace process by the perpetrators - the IRA / Sinn Féin? GARY MILLAR Ballymena, Co. Antrim

Sir: In 1936 Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists staged a deliberately provocative march into London's East End with the express purpose of intimidating the Jewish population there. The march was strenuously opposed by the local population and the ensuing "Battle of Cable Street" prompted the government to pass the 1936 Public Order Act, banning the use of uniforms and marches for political purposes.

Is this not directly analogous to Northern Ireland, where the Orange Order bears at least a superficial resemblance to the BUF in its belief in its own inherent superiority and its right to assert that superiority by marching provocatively through areas inhabited by those whom it sees as undesirable elements?

Should not the provisions of the 1936 Public Order Act be extended to Northern Ireland? G MAY St Albans, Hertfordshire

A family blighted by deportation

Sir: We call upon the Home Secretary to have compassion for the Onibio family, currently blighted by deportation.

Because the family inadvertently broke the "two-year rule" by spending too long out of this country, Abdul and Joyce Onibio and three of their children lost their permanent residency status.

Abdul was forcibly removed to Nigeria, where he has been detained and tortured by the Abacha regime, because of his support for the pro-democracy movement. He has now escaped to a neighbouring country, where he is in hiding. His son Ade is stranded in Guyana, the country which gave him safe haven to spare him the same fate as his father. Joyce and her two daughters, Toro and Yemi, are awaiting deportation to Nigeria. The older children were born here and can stay.

We call upon Jack Straw both to grant Abdul and Ade exceptional leave to re-enter Britain, and to stop further proceedings against Joyce, Toro and Yemi. This country is their home. Abdul came here in 1964. He and Joyce married here, and started their family here. Abdul paid National Insurance contributions throughout the times when he was working on vital water projects in Nigeria. Ade, Toro and Yemi were born in Nigeria during that period but they grew up here. It is inhuman that they and their parents are being condemned for an accidental infraction of immigration rules.

JEREMY CORBYN MP (Islington North, Lab)
JOHN PILGER
PAUL FOOT
HAROLD PINTER
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Brown lets the boom roll on

Sir: Gavyn Davies (column, 7 July) says that "in the Budget run-up no one seemed to be arguing for anything remotely on this scale [a £9.5bn-plus increase in consumer taxes]". Well, I did. Both in these columns, in a comment on the Green Budget, and also in *Tribune* (16 May). Indeed, I argued for a take-out of £15bn on the grounds that a booming economy should produce a surplus on the Budget.

What the Chancellor seems to have done is taken out less than half of this amount by taxation, left private spending to boom and reduced public spending, in real terms, by upping the inflation forecast. This, as Davies says, is deflationary. But there is a lot of difference between cutting public spending and cutting private spending. The latter would have cooled the economy down and given the Bank a reason for not going hard on interest rate increases, thus leaving the pound to come down gently from its high perch. The former will cause misery in the public sector services and inflict hardship on the worse off while still leaving the economy overheated.

Interestingly enough, the Treasury seems to be forecasting a recession in manufacturing output growth, which is put at 0.75 per cent in 1998, half of its miserably low figure in 1997. The Red Book has a projection that real disposable income will grow at only 1.75 per cent in 1998, half of its 1997 level.

Did the Treasury thus know that leaving the consumer happy will hurt the industrial economy but that this was the best it could do? MEGHNA DESAI (Professor Lord Desai) The Centre for the Study of Global Governance London WC2

Chinese farewell to Britain

Sir: In the final instalment of Larry Feign's brilliant comic strip *The World of Lily Wong* (1 July) it is suggested that the Hong Kong Chinese ought to be grateful to Britain because they would otherwise be back in China "knee-deep in buffalo shit".

Considering the circumstances of Britain's capture of Hong Kong - starting two wars with China for attempting to put an end to the biggest drugs racket in world history - it should come as no surprise there are those Chinese who feel a little less than grateful. True, without Britain Hong Kong would not exist, but it isn't a case of Britain civilising six million Chinese. The Chinese have the oldest surviving civilisation anywhere on earth, already highly sophisticated while most Europeans were living in primitive tribal communities. The paper and ink which the reader holds in their hand at this moment are the result of Chinese innovation. This same pioneering spirit backfired on the Chinese when they invented gunpowder, which Britain

later used to blow away any opposition in the South China Sea, and the magnetic compass which was to guide the British fleet to China's coast. PAUL CHEUNG Banwell, Somerset

Sir: One's most lasting impression, after a week in Hong Kong prior to, during and after the handover ceremonies, has to be that there was no evidence of fear, sorrow, exhilaration or triumphalism among the population: only a collective sigh of relief that the transition had been a peaceful one. The general mood seemed to be "Now we can get back to living our normal lives again."

It was said by one commentator that there was not a dry eye in the place. If true, this was not due to tears of sorrow or joy, but the climate - the wettest in the Territory's history for over 50 years. As for the much-mooted tensions that were to be aroused when the British and American official delegations left at midnight, before the inaugural ceremonies began, no one even noticed their departure. SIR FREDERIC BENNETT Abernethy, Gwynedd

Papal bully

Sir: Austin Piclou (Letters, 5 July) states that "Pope Adrian IV 'granted' Ireland... to the King of England". What he neglected to mention was that Pope Adrian IV was an Englishman called Nicolas Breakspear, the only Englishman ever to hold this position. A cynic may wonder whether he was guided by God or nationalism. In those days popes were hardly apolitical. C WATSON Selby, North Yorkshire

Law denies me a natural medicine

Sir: Last week I was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, suspended for two years on medical grounds, for growing cannabis. I had used it as an analgesic in order to reduce my intake of less effective, more harmful, prescription drugs. I have a rare genetic condition, Ehlers Danlos syndrome, which causes pain in many of my joints due to muscle spasm, nerve pain and arthritic inflammation.

You report ("Doctors back cannabis products", 3 July) the call by the British Medical Association for the licensing of a wider range of drugs derived from cannabis for medicinal use. It is encouraging that the BMA recognises the potential of cannabis, but I am concerned that they are looking at licensing further synthetic preparations rather than reassessing the natural herb.

Why attempt to isolate and synthesise therapeutically active chemicals from the plant, whose actions may be down to a complex interaction of its many chemical ingredients? This is not what patients are asking for; we merely want the right to smoke a naturally growing substance without being criminalised, humiliated and punished by the law.

The side-effects of cannabis mentioned by Edward Tierney GP - "distorting perception, reducing vigilance and causing apathy and indifference" - are just some of the side-effects also caused by pharmaceutical alternatives. The various pills I have tried have had all these and more, including nausea, loss of appetite, addiction, digestive disorders and other adverse effects. The effects mentioned by Dr Tierney may be fairly common as a short-term reaction in the novice recreational user, but a tolerance tends to develop with regular use.

Cannabis does not necessarily have to be smoked: it can also be ingested in drinks, sweets, biscuits etc, which may be better for health. Research into this area would be much more useful to patients than the development of more synthetic drugs for us to risk taking. AMANDA SPERRITT Calne, Wiltshire

Why they can't stand the heat

Sir: In Australia and the US both floor staff and chefs frequently earn twice as much as their British counterparts - usually for fewer hours, and with better conditions. British establishments might ponder that when they become the lack of good chefs ("Too few cooks spoil the broth", 7 July) - can you think of any reason why a grown man or woman should choose to work twice as hard as most people in order to earn quite a lot less? The myth that this is the way it has to be in order for chefs to prove their dedication is rubbish.

Gordon Ramsay is correct in identifying the apprentice system as a way of training chefs to a higher standard, but this still doesn't solve the problem of the drop-out rate. When young people note that even experienced chefs earn relatively little, it is not surprising that they opt for a different, better paid and less punishing profession. Neither is it a surprise that young British chefs are consistently leaving this country for - guess where? - Australia and the US. BARBARA MALINEN London SE8

analysis



Cambridge, always one of the nation's great patrons of contemporary architecture, may now be ending a commitment to fine design to please its accountants, writes Jack O'Sullivan



Shall we see their like again? Van Heyningen and Haward's £2.5m Lucy Cavendish College accommodation (main picture) is an example of Cambridge's commitment to quality, as are Sir Michael Hopkins's Queen's College building (top left) and Frank Young House, Darwin College (bottom left). The box-like Gwen Raverat House (centre left) offers a warning of the dangers of design and build construction

Photographs (far left): Grant Norman

The bean-counter's contract

When most people think of Cambridge, their thoughts are of historic buildings, of King's College's Gothic architecture stretching along the Backs, Wren's innovative library in Trinity, the stately Senate House, and the fabulous, decorated roof of St John's College chapel. Few think of it as a battleground for the future of modern British architecture. Yet, in the second or third court of many colleges, often hidden from public view, lie some of the finest examples of contemporary design. Their detail, materials, form and cost mark them out as structures intended to last half a millennium, like the best that surrounds them.

This commitment to quality makes a Cambridge commission a prized honour for the grantees of British architecture, and a goal for the aspirants. But the question being asked is whether the university, perhaps the greatest supporter of British architecture, is poised to replace its generous patronage with more bean-counting procurement. Is Cambridge about to ditch its expensive, award-winning artists in favour of build 'em cheap and build 'em quick techniques?

The alarm was raised by the Royal Institute of British Architects in a recent edition of its journal, headlined "Campus crisis?" "Wates instead of Christopher Wren, Bovis, not Giles Gilbert Scott. God forbid," worried the editorial. It highlighted a university review of commissioning policy that is examining "design and build" construction. Under this system, instead of having a highbrow architect in charge from working drawings until completion, a developer delivers broad specifications at a fixed price. The result is much cheaper and quicker, as the developer buys everything off the peg and fits it together rather than aspiring to craft a bespoke, unique masterpiece.

The debate has got Britain's up-and-coming architects worried. "It's the end, if you design and build," says the Czech architect Jan Kaplický, a key figure among the avant-garde. He specialises in adapting space technology, and recently completed an acclaimed, S-shaped pontoon bridge at Canary Wharf. He could confidently expect a Cambridge commission to be the next stage in his career. "Design and build threatens to kill the role of the architect, which is both to create the building and to execute the plan, so the

design is preserved through the whole process. If the architect is somehow pushed aside after the first stage, then commerce wins. It would be a tragedy. You can see the results in the Far East and the United States. Interest dies in any fresh approaches to problems."

"You end up with one model for building and apply that generally," warns Zahar Hadid, the Britain-based, Lebanon-educated architect who, despite winning many competitions, including one for designing the Cardiff Opera House, has largely failed to get her radical proposals off the ground. "There has to be some way to create buildings that are interesting and unexpected. We have to learn from other cultures on the Continent, where architects have greater prestige than here. Look at the interesting work done in Barcelona - that was economical."

The difference between the competing approaches is demonstrated by Darwin College, Cambridge. Frank Young House, one of its accommodation blocks, is a modern gem. The serious public facade, set back in generous space away from the street, is in a yellow sandstone and brick that give the building a golden glow. But the back is private, and full of gaiety, a pavilion structure overlooking enclosed decking, ideal for student parties, and leading on to Gonville and Caius playing fields. The roof is painted a Mediterranean blue, so that on a good day it blends into the sky and seems to float. Built by Jeremy Dixon Edward Jones in 1993, Frank Young House cost £1m. It is hugely popular among the college's graduate students.

Five minutes down the road, Gwen Raverat House is home to their less privileged peers, mostly one-year MPhil students just passing through. They have to live in "design and build" accommodation. For a start, the box-like building faces the wrong way, with its windowless back wall

blankly pointing towards the best aspect, Mill Pond and the River Cam. The block, built from identical, commonplace bricks, looks like an office. Its entrance is in a car park from where anyone can peer into ground floor bedrooms, whose occupants have, in contrast with their second-floor neighbours, had to install net curtains.

Some of Cambridge's best and newest accommodation, for example Richard MacCormac's 1996 accommodation block in Trinity, has large, elevated bay windows jutting out from ground-floor rooms overlooking gardens. These windows don't need nets. And they can be drawn completely back. So privacy is combined with airiness, an escape pod from a bedroom's four walls. In contrast, the windows at Gwen Raverat House serve a minimal purpose - to let a little light in and keep out the rain. Without an architect in charge, the needs of people were overlooked. It's a place to sleep between visits to the library; not a place to live a gilded youth. In 20 years it will look shoddy and dated. But it serves the college's purposes - it cost about the same as Frank Young House, and you can pack twice as many students in. That's an equation the college accountants, who see the university more and more as a business, can understand better than the whinges of architects.

Cambridge's modern gems also include prestige structures. The Queen's building in Emmanuel College (1995) is perhaps the most successful of recent examples. Sir Michael Hopkins had to design a structure within a small space next to a street full of buses, that would be suitable for musical performances in its 170-seat auditorium, enhance the neighbouring Fellows Garden and preserve the view from the street of Wren's famous chapel. The result is an award-winning masterpiece, built from the same Ketton stone as the chapel four centuries ago, and with a beautifully hand-buffed, curved facade.

Inside there is perfect silence, an elegant, Gaudiesque spiral staircase, and a Steinway, with its own lift, which is elevated from the basement into the auditorium for performances. "We are delighted with the building. It clearly catches the eye," says Professor John Ffowes Williams, Master of Emmanuel, which has not disclosed the cost. "It has won prizes and increased the visibility of the college, which is very helpful."

Against such evident satisfaction, it is hard to understand how the design and build lobby is gaining a foothold in Cambridge. But other prestige university buildings have enjoyed more qualified praise. Norman Foster's vast and expensive Law Faculty library is as impressive in its ambitious use of glass as his Stansted Airport structure. It shouts out the importance of Cambridge and of its learned friends. But the library has a problem. It is noisy. John Outram's Institute of Management Studies (1996), so innovative in its Pharaonic-style use of strong colour, overran, at £11m, its original budget. And Jesus College's £2.2m Quincenary Library (1996) with its light, milky interior by Shaftey and Evans, has won prizes, but the uncharitable suggest that health club design and B&Q home furnishings may have been an unconscious influence. It only needs a Jacuzzi, and a thatched bar serving pilsa coladas, and the shadow of these grand projects, the university has seen Homerton College cause a huge stir by completing its Mary Allan library, auditorium and teaching wing cheaply and efficiently under a "develop and construct contract" based on Sibley Robinson's initial drawings.

Since the RIBA Journal broadside, the university authorities have closed ranks and say that the architecture debate has been blown out of proportion. David Todd-Jones has presided over a golden age in Cambridge architecture, and his retirement as director of the university's estate management department has

sparked the review. He denies that "design and build" is in the ascendancy. "The university always has and always will use a range of procurement. But one will always want good architecture." However, he adds: "Architects certainly would find it disturbing if, for some reason, Cambridge and its colleges turned away from architect-led buildings."

Bill Allies worries about what will happen. He was responsible for the award-winning, Dutch-style 1995 Rosalind Franklin building in Newnham College. One of its distinguishing features is the unusual, roughly finished red brick, carefully mixed from different pallets each of a slightly different shade, giving refreshing articulation to the wall surfaces. "In the initial plans I could have specified a red brick, or even a red hand-made brick," he says, "but there are still 10 different red hand-made bricks, and if a design and build contractor had been in charge, he would have gone for the cheapest and the effect would have been lost."

Allies hopes that a compromise will be struck between architects and the new demand for tighter control on budgets. He is currently designing a sewage pumping station for Thames Water. "We did the working drawings, then it went to a design and build contractor, who nominated us as architects for the final stages. It's a compromise, but it has worked well." He sees the combination catching on.

In short, the days seem gone when architects could hope for a blank cheque by profligate dons, flush from generous benefaction and scheming to build better than their neighbours. But the long-term result of the current review is unclear. No one yet knows whether Cambridge in the new millennium will be ready to give the latest generation of the avant-garde, the likes of Jan Kaplický and Zahar Hadid, their place among the dreaming spires.

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Trying to pull a fast one are we, sir?

Just up the road from my house there is a long steep hill down which cars quite often come far too fast, even though it is a 30mph speed limit. The parish council has once or twice asked the police to do something about it. The police have come with their speed-measuring devices and reported that the average speed of cars is nothing to worry about, and then gone away, after which the cars have gone on speeding down the hill in excess of 30mph. Meanwhile, in a nearby village, there is another stretch of road on the edge of a 30mph limit which is spacious and tree-lined and where motorists like to accelerate just before they leave the speed limit. The police also like to set up a speed trap there from time to time. One policeman sits concealed with his speed measurer, and radio to his mate every time a car comes past doing more than 30mph, whereupon his mate steps out of the bus shelter where he is concealed and waves you imperiously to a halt to book you.

I know this happens, because it happened to me

recently, and now after decades of having a clean licence I have a dirty one again. My crime? Going up to 37mph while leaving a speed limit. My mistake? Choosing to do it on the very day that a couple of local policemen decided to increase their arrest rate with some easy pickings.

Well, it's all part of the game, and I am here to testify that I am a better person for it, because being punished for these things does work. Now I am always very careful to drive along at about 25mph and never to go anywhere near 30. Only on that one stretch in that one village, it is true, but it's a start, and it is also a good idea, because those two policemen are often back there, having their little bit of fun. However, it also reinforces my feelings about police behaviour. I am more firmly convinced than ever that when the police want to find people speeding, they can, and when they would prefer to conclude that people are not speeding, they will be able to find no scrap of evidence that anyone ever exceeds the speed limit.

What I would like to be



Miles Kington

able to do is measure the speed of the cars coming down the hill to my house for myself, but I have a funny feeling that the police would not like me to do this. About a year ago there was a story in the papers about a man in London who was so fed up with cars racing past his house on a rat run that he stood outside his gate pointing his wife's hair-dryer at the traffic. The reason for this is that hair-dryers look very like speed-measuring devices. There were two immediate effects. One was that the traffic slowed right

down when the drivers saw him. The other was that the police arrested him and took him to court, where he was found guilty and fined for.

For what? That's what I can't remember. For embarrassing the police? For dishonestly handling a hair-dryer? For having an imitation offensive weapon? I wish I knew. But then the police have many talents, and one of them is being able to find a law to match any offence. I am sure it is part of the police examinations to make sure that a policeman can arrest anyone at any time if deemed necessary. "Question 14. A man walks down a street with a pineapple on his head, singing the National Anthem and wearing Union Jack shorts. He is not causing any trouble, as of yet. On how many different charges could you arrest him? You need name only 20."

Come to think of it, there is a much simpler question available. "Question 14. A man is walking down the street. How many different laws is he breaking?" Well, if it is illegal to point

a hair-dryer at traffic I am sure it is even more illegal to get a real speed-measuring device. I am not sure exactly how to go about getting one, but if there is any poverty-stricken police force out there with a second-hand one for sale, I am your man. Failing which, I could write to the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, I suppose, and ask where they get their machines that measure the speed of services. I have never worked out why anyone should want to measure Greg Rusedski's service at 104.3 mph, but I am impressed at the accuracy of the reading. I am also impressed that the police have never burst into Wimbledon and arrested the man handling the service speed measurer, as they did that poor man with the hair-dryer. Hush money involved, I expect.

Oh, one other thing. If, the next time I spotted these two policemen stopping speeding drivers in the next-door village, I were to stand near the hidden one with a large sign reading "SLOW DOWN - POLICE SPEED TRAP AHEAD!", on what charge could they get me?

The wickedest men in the world put to the sword

From Aleister Crowley to Jonathan Aitken – a brief lesson in demonisation, by Snoo Wilson

Jonathan Aitken, the disgraced procurer of arms (and more), whose resignation as a Right Honourable must have created flickers of apprehension in many another dodgy Honourable breast, was said recently to have "fled" to America. Given that he was attempting to bully the press, by putting his family into perjury on the witness stand, the hyperbole is understandable. The idea that before being accused, he was removing himself from retribution by fleeing, is irresistible. While the plane carrying the hypothetical fugitive may not actually have gone any faster than normal, as sure as honey is made by bees, newspapers need their villains to flee. At any rate, it is now open season against the tall fellow in the pinstripe suit whose eyes never stopped flickering as he laid a rack of pork pies, fresh and steaming from the oven, before us all.

Aitken's forehead, Lord Beaverbrook, also thought he knew what the public ought to hear. Beaverbrook, after all, put St George with his trusty sword, the very same one Master Jonathan had the brass neck to try to borrow, on the front page of the *Daily Express*. One of the villains that Beaverbrook took the journalistic scourge to was the poet and self-appointed magician, Aleister Crowley. Crowley was impaled as "The Wickedest Man in the World" by the Beaverbrook sword through-out the 1920s. Accordingly he is now generally recognised, like Beaverbrook's great-nephew, as a social pariah and there has been not much in the way of recovery of his reputation. Beaverbrook himself was a noted bondage enthusiast, but with so many journalists in his pay, was able to keep his penchant for spanking out of the limelight. Not so, the rest of us.

During the First World War, Crowley had scratched a living in New York writing a column for a German newspaper where he humouredly gave out the addresses of his aunt's houses in the leafy suburbs of London, urging the Zeppelins to bomb them. Fortunately for Crowley, none of the aunts seem to have been aware of their shaven-headed nephew's tasteless jokes. They even appear to have been fond of him. Truly, there is no accounting for tastes. At the end of the First World War, an influenza epidemic killed more people than had died in the trenches. Crowley's ancient aunts perished in this silent holocaust and he was left three small annuities. He used the money to found a colony at Cefalu, in Sicily, where free love and magic were to be celebrated.

Crowley's vices make glorious reading even for today's jaded palates. He was a lifelong devotee of heroin, which he juggled with cocaine, in unsuccessful efforts to get free of them both. Weird types abounded throughout his life. He tended to attract and be attracted by people on the verge of madness and obsession. He claimed to have received through dictation from a higher being the book that was going to supersede the Bible, *The Book of Law*. Crowley was vigorously bisexual and a com-

pulsive confessor to his diaries. His growing reputation for unspeakable satanic wickedness swelled with the newspaper reports that some of his "magical" rituals involved men, goats and "murdering children". As far as I can gather, this last accusation is just not true. The only evidence that Crowley the Child Killer existed is a ponderous joke he made about semen. Crowley wrote with poor biology about "killing thousands of children in an operation of the 'ninth degree'". Masturbation has its place in the Crowleian canon.

Crowley's own ideas about raising children seem indeed to have been grossly "liberal" – as wanting as Bertrand Russell's – but that on its own is hardly enough to accuse him of murdering them. But there was more than enough in the farrago of Crowley's bohemian misdeeds to keep him in the public eye as a monster: in the same way the scale of Aitken's fall enabled several papers to re-run his earlier doings with "Miss Whiplash". Nothing is too bad to say about pariahs.

One of Crowley's Cefalu disciples was Raoul Loveday, who unwisely partook of some local cat's blood with Crowley, after a messy "magical" sacrifice. Those like myself, who feel queasy about these things, have to remember that Crowley, imbued through his Exclusive Brethren upbringing with the spirit of the Old Testament, and Abraham's sacrifice of an animal to god, may not be in the spirit of modern times, but is still a model for contact with the Divine. In Raoul and Crowley's case, the chances of escaping entanglements from uncooked Mediterranean moggy were small. Crowley became very ill, and Raoul died. Naturally, the Beast was accused through the newspapers of killing Raoul, by foul "magical" means. In fact the Beast adored Raoul, basking in the younger man's uncritical adulation.

When Mussolini seized power, he banished all secret societies, including Masons. Since Crowley had joined any number of them, an expulsion order was issued for the Great Beast. Beaverbrook, who had had little or nothing to do with the rise of Mussolini, took the credit for the expulsion himself as the pariah slunk back to England. The Wickedest Man in the World was never charged with anything. Satanic murder is all in the innuendo.

Years later, Crowley's further downfall came in an unsuccessful libel case. The production of a book of his early onanistic poetry, "White Stains", by the defence completely destroyed what little credibility the Great Beast might have had. The trial bankrupted him. Like Mr Aitken, and indeed Oscar Wilde, the reckless pursuit of a libel case had been his undoing. Like Aitken and Wilde, Crowley also seems to have been a sleep-walker at some level in the courts of law, somehow colluding with his own demonisation. All very strange.

Snoo Wilson's novel, 'I, Crowley', is published by Mandrake of Oxford at £9.99.



Crowley: a beastly press

Tagging along with Michael Howard

by Polly Toynbee

Tagging offenders was one of Michael Howard's all time bad ideas, wasn't it? Remember the fiasco when the first scheme was tried – the equipment failed and the Home Secretary had egg all over his face (tee hee). Now all of a sudden, the new Home Secretary is suddenly talking tagging too. What is this? New Labour, New Ball and Chain?

The news leaked out this week, a BBC scoop: Jack Straw was planning to release 4,000 prisoners early and tag them. There followed blustery semi-denials in the Commons to absurd Tory rants about rapists and murderers set free to loot and pillage. But what is the Home Secretary up to?

Panic is in the air. Everyone knew that Howard had left behind a colossal land-mine, but no one expected the fuse to start to fizz so soon. The prisons are starting to explode. Frantic building of new prisons and new wings is not keeping pace: this year there are nearly 6,000 extra prisoners, but only 3,000 new places. Until May numbers were rising at around 150-200 a week – and that was bad enough. But something odd has happened since the election – prison numbers are rising even faster. No one knows why, but suddenly the increase is reaching 300 a week and in one appalling week it was 600 – a whole prison-full. It forced Straw to U-turn on the use of private prisons and the prison ship. The convicts had to be put somewhere.

Whatever the reason, a crisis is at hand and the governors are protesting loudly. One says he is over-flowing with people sleeping on mattresses on the floor. In segregation and hospital cells. By next week they say, the elastic prison walls will stretch no further. The Prison Officers Association, never one to miss a trick, is issuing ultimatums demanding more pay for its members guarding more prisoners. Yesterday it gave the Prison Service a 36-hour deadline to meet its demands: it knows how to twist the knife in a prison crisis. On Monday it meets Jack Straw and says its members will start to work to their health and safety rule book (a legal form of strike) if they get no satisfaction, in more pay. This may be Labour's first union trial of strength – and probably its most unwelcome.

The Prison Governors Association is urging the courts to stop sending minor offenders to prison. Its survey in one typical closed prison shows that 64 per cent of offenders are not violent, not house burglars, not sex offenders, nor fraud or forgery cases. Most are drug users, who could and should have been sent to drug programmes in the community – if they existed.

Now when Douglas Hurd was faced with overcrowding, he let thousands of petty offenders out on executive release. There was no great outcry at the time, no hollabaloo in the tabloids. Nevertheless, Jack Straw has said he will not do it. He does not think he can get away with it, as a Tory Home Secretary could. What is more, Howard has since then whipped up public demand for long hard sentences and titillated the clamour for severe punishment with his Prison Works rhetoric. So what can Straw do?

This is where the tagging leak comes in. The clues were



all there shortly after Straw took office. He talks loudly about the need to regain public confidence in community sentences: the public has to believe that a community sentence is not a liberal trick to let criminals off. How? You tag the offenders, night and day, track their every movement relentlessly and show that these criminals are definitely doing time – but in their own home.

Nobody was more against tagging when Howard first tried it than the probation officers. It threatened their profession. Would not an electronic device do their job for them? It threatened the whole ethos of working therapeutically with offenders. They were dead against it. But no longer.

Why not? Because, to their astonishment, they have found that tagging works. Yes, for once, Howard was right. One of the three pilot schemes, in Nor-

wich, run by a small British company called Geographix, has had 120 widely varied offenders tagged so far, criminals who would certainly have gone to prison otherwise. Only eight have been returned to court and prison for breaching their curfew – a phenomenal success. The technology now works, and so does the whole sentence.

The court sets the hours of curfew to suit the crime. A man guilty of repeated violent affray on Saturday nights might be confined for every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. A persistent shoplifter might have to stay in 12 hours a day in shopping hours. If they are not home on the dot, an alarm rings in the control centre and someone phones them at home to see where they are. Within two hours someone visits them. If they clock up two hours' absence in total, they get sent a yellow

card (as well as a visit). After four hours, a red card, and after that, it's back to court and jail. On average, most commit only two or three trivial violations.

All those tagged have been assessed by the probation service as suitable cases, and given a probation order at the same time. Many officers now speak in glowing terms about tagging. They say it helps chaotic offenders get some order into their lives, by having to keep to a timetable. It helps them resist peer-pressure to go out committing more crimes they can say they can't go without losing face. Many offenders themselves, grateful to escape jail, are saying it has helped them. What's more, the offenders have struck up good relationships with their taggers, whom Geographix has hand-picked as good communicators. Unlike the early models, the tag itself is small and discreet enough to hide on wrist or ankle – not publicly humiliating. In Sweden tagging has been so successful they have started to close down prisons, while we rush to open more.

So is Straw's big idea really to spring thousands of prisoners on tags? No. Or at least not now. But it plainly is his idea to expand tagging quickly over the next year and to encourage courts to use it. Once it is in general use, it will cost some £4,000 a year instead of prison at £24,000. Then he might quietly start to let people out early at the end of often over-long sentences.

In the meantime, he faces a prison crisis building into horrendous proportions. Jack Straw and the Lord Chancellor have to stop the sentencing lottery. A forthcoming report by the Prison Reform Trust will show that magistrates in Newcastle send 5.6 per cent of their cases to jail, while nearby Sunderland sends away a huge 18.7 per cent. Why? Southampton sent 5.7 per cent to jail compared to Brighton's 13.2 per cent. If all courts imprisoned people at the lower rates, at a stroke there would be no overcrowding problem.

Jack Straw is billed to make a speech shortly on which many are pinning their hopes. They are waiting for the signal from him, loud and clear, that prison doesn't work – but good community sentences do. Howard created this crisis by demanding more prison; now Straw has to undo that damage. He may have to brave tabloid abuse. But if he fucks it, he will reap the whirlwind inside the prisons, doing himself far worse damage in the long run.



'Absinthe': a sign of Degas's decadence?

Here we are in the 1990s, embodiments of the fin de siècle, and we are denied access to the fluid essence of the 1890s – absinthe

john walsh

white, it reaches parts of your psyche left undisturbed by, say, gin and tonic. Ernest Dowson, in his poem "Absinthe", writes about a troubled man who "drank opaline". And that obscure night of the soul, and the valley of humiliation through which he stumbled were forgotten. He saw blue vistas of undiscovered countries, high prospects and a quiet, caressing sea. The past shed its perfume over him, to-day held his hand as it were a little child, and to-morrow shone like a white star...

Whew. You can see why I need to get my hands on a slug. But it was precisely the wild, hallucinogenic qualities of the stuff that got it banned in Switzerland (in 1908), then France in 1915, followed by Great Britain. They said it rotted the brain, made you go blind, or sterile, or mad. In the 1890s, they blamed it for the foibles of the Bohemian society and the excesses of modern art. Remember Degas's picture, "L'Absinthe"? It's got nothing to do with the drink at all. Degas called it *Au Café*, and painted a man and woman having a coffee. But when it was exhibited in London in 1893, the critics decided it must be a damning indictment of where low habits get you ("a study of degradation, male and female" – Walter Crane) and preferred the invented title, "L'Absinthe".

Tantalised beyond endurance, I rang up Berry Bros & Rudd, the fantastically posh wine merchants in St James's, and asked if they could get me a couple of cases. A receptionist steered me to their buying department in Basingstoke, where a charming chap said

kindly that no, since it was 68 per cent proof "and would simply blow your head off", it's still illegal, but a weakened version exists in the form of "Anis del Mono". He put me on to Ehrmanns, a supplier in London W1, who transferred me to a wholesaler called C&D Wines, where a bloke called José with a mobile phone put me in touch with Products of Spain, a shop in Charlotte Street, where a Mr Lopez...

Oh, to hell with it. Give me bona fide absinthe or nothing. Short of travelling to Prague (where I hear that enterprising distillers are making and selling gallons of the stuff every week), how or where can I get some? I simply want to try the drink that made Hemingway perform tricks with knives, while in its grip. I want a glass of the tipple that encouraged Van Gogh to hack off his own ear. I want the real absinthe, with wormwood, not aniseed, in it. That's its real secret ingredient – wormwood, the bitter herb that can drive the unrighteous mad. Why, the very name trembles with mystic weirdness. Bible students will recall that, in Revelations, it is prophesied that a great gas, called Wormwood, blazing like a torch, will fall from the sky on a third of our rivers and springs, and many people will die of the bitter waters. The Russian word for "wormwood" is, of course, Chernobyl.

Tomorrow, Patek Philippe, makers of the world's most expensive watches, go in search of new customers through the pages of a magazine. A couple of years ago, Condé Nast, owners of *Vogue*, *Tatler* and *Vanity Fair*, linked up with Forward Publishing, who specialise in creating magazines for consumer firms to send their clients as a "customer loyalty device" – and last October, they launched *Patek Philippe: the International*

Magazine. I have the second issue here: a wildly glamorous production, designed and laid out in *Tatler*-ish style, crammed with fancy prose (William Shawcross, Alain de Botton, Jonathan Keates, Susie Boyl) and offering the kind of piss-elegant features, on jade figurines or Japanese furniture, that get leafed through by superior dames in American soap operas. So it's surprising that the marketplace into which the well-heeled time bandits are now hoping to break is... China.

"We have a huge presence in the Far East," breathes Kristen Harbin, who is overseeing the China launch, "and we've a print run of 15,000 to send to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore." Yes, yes, but China? "We've reserved 5,000 copies for the Chinese mainland," she said. "Mostly Shanghai." Did she think a natural marketplace existed in the last great redoubt of Communism, among the sampan franchisers and the wok moguls, for say, the Neptune ladies' gold watch with pearl and diamond bracelet (price £17,370)? "It's a communications initiative," she replied shortly. "I think the chairman, Philippe Stern, wants to be the first luxury manufacturer to show confidence in the Chinese." "Show confidence in" is marketing-speak for "tempt". I hope the billion-odd huddled masses are grateful for Mr Stern's kind condescension.

Dame Rumour has been busy lately about whom Faber & Faber, one of the few wholly independent publishing houses left, will take on as its new editorial director. After Robert McCrum left last year, to be literary editor of some Sunday rag, the job went to Julian Loose, a commissioning editor on the Faber staff. But now, it seems, they're hungry to appoint another McCrum-style swashbuckler from the larger publishing world. Lately they've been "looking to America" – a phrase that's taken to refer to Peter Straus, the wolfish boss of Picador Books, who legged it to upstate New York some months ago, in pursuit of love. How logical, everyone said, how right, that Straus should come back and run the noble house of Faber. But they were wrong. Faber have, I hear, persuaded Bill Buford to leave his unimaginably cool position as literary and fiction editor at *The New Yorker*, relinquish his Greenwich Village apartment and return to rainy London to mastermind the company's future output. The bearded Californian, founder and ex-editor of *Granta*, will be welcomed back with hugs and kisses by the London literati; but many, I'm sure, would pay a large percentage of his salary to be a fly on the telephone during his final chat with Tina Brown.

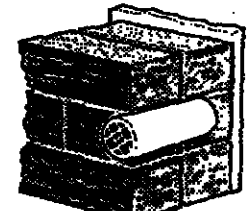
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Consumer boom fuels new jobs bonanza

Windfall spending helps to double Dixons' profits

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

There was further evidence of the boom in consumer spending yesterday when Dixons, the electrical retailer, announced a big store expansion along with soaring sales boosted by building society windfalls. Dixons will create 3,000 jobs this year as it opens 70 shops across its Currys, PC World and The Link store chains.

The company said it hoped to create a similar number of jobs next year. This year's expansion will cost more than £100m and take Dixons' employee numbers to 23,000.

Reporting doubled annual profits of £200m, Dixons said that its sales in the nine weeks since 3 May were 17 per cent ahead of the same period last year after stripping out new store openings. Dixons said sales had been strongest in higher ticket items such as large screen televisions, personal computers and larger domestic appliances. It credited building society windfalls from the Alliance & Leicester and Halifax donations for a large part of the sales increase.

Jonathan Clare, Dixons' chief

executive, said: "There is very clear evidence of a windfall effect. People are buying more expensive items. And we can time the impact to the day that the money arrives in people's accounts."

Robert Shrager, finance director, added: "People are treating themselves to one-off items of expenditure. If you try and book an exotic holiday at the moment you won't be able to. They will all be booked. But if you want to go to Benidorm, you will be OK. We are benefiting from the same trend."

However, the company cautioned that the current sales levels would not be continued over the whole year and denied that the economy was entering a period of 1980s-style over-heating. Mr Clare said: "We don't get the feeling we are in the midst of a runaway boom. It is a one-off."

He said a quarter or half percentage point in interest rates would not damage Dixons' business. "We'd like to see sustainable long-term growth."

As the company's shares jumped 9 per cent to 536.5p on the news, Dixons said it was looking forward to product launches based on digital technology. With digital cameras and cam-

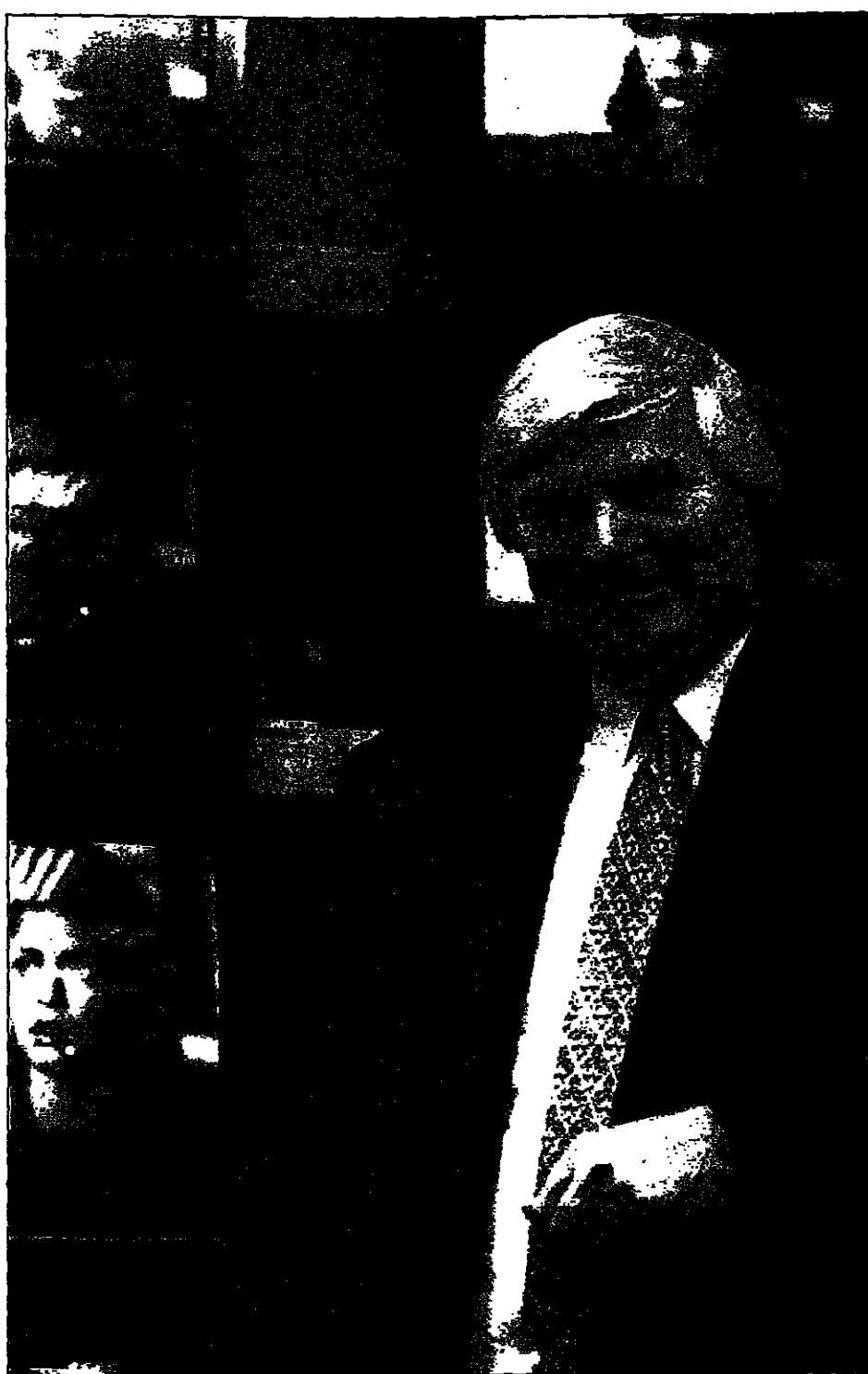
corders already in the shops, Mr Clare said the next year or so would see the introduction of digital televisions, video recorders and recordable compact discs. "It's very exciting," he said.

Mr Clare was speaking as Dixons reported pre-tax profits of £200m, double the figure of the previous year, and an increase in total dividends from 8.75p to 10.5p for the year to 3 May. Retail operating profits increased by 38 per cent to £172m, helped by good sales of PCs, photography equipment and mobile communications products. Personal computers and related products now account for 29 per cent of group sales, up from 23 per cent last year.

There was a £9m charge in the accounts to cover the costs of the Millennium computer problem.

Dixons has re-launched its Mastercare warranty service as a service contract, rather than an insurance policy to mitigate the effect of the insurance premium tax introduced in Kenneth Clarke's last Budget. The company said the move had reduced the impact on its profits from around £30m to less than £10m.

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Screen test: Jonathan Clare, Dixons' chief executive, said there was clear evidence of windfall buying of more expensive items
Photograph: Adrian Dennis

Allied Domecq to spend £150m on new pubs

Andrew Yates

Allied Domecq, one of the UK's largest pub and drinks groups, yesterday announced plans to cash in on the consumer boom through spending £150m over the next 12 months on the rapid expansion of its pub estate, creating 4,000 jobs in the process.

"The consumer economy is booming and that is feeding through to our pubs," Martin Grant, managing director of Allied Domecq's Leisure division, said yesterday.

Allied plans a big expansion of its themed pub estate. It will open around another 50 Big Steak and Wacky Warehouse outlets, which cater for the family market and include play areas for the kids. Another 45 Firkin pubs will be opened and a mixture of 40 tenanted and managed outlets will be turned into Mr Q's, which house pool tables and video screens to attract younger customers.

The company is also looking to roll out new concepts such as Golden Oak Inns, a traditional-style country pub chain designed to appeal to the older drinker.

In all, Allied plans to more than double its themed pub estate by the end of the millennium through opening another 400 outlets. "This is a long-term plan and we hope to spend a damn sight more than £150m next year expanding our managed pubs," said Mr Grant.

The themed pub market has exploded over the last few years with anything from Irish pubs to sports bars springing up nationwide. Allied's move follows similar expansion plans by

its main rivals. Bass is spending £300m this year growing brands such as All Bar One, and Scottish & Newcastle is spending £150m on its Rat and Parrot and Chef & Brewer chains. Independent groups like JD Wetherspoon are also rapidly expanding.

While the huge investment by the industry has led to some fears that the market could quickly become saturated, analysts believe that there is still plenty of room for growth. "The demand for new pubs is still buoyant, fuelled by the strength of the economy and the explosive growth in the pub food market, which is expanding by around 10 per cent a year. The companies are all making good returns and will continue to pump money into the market," said one drinks analyst yesterday.

Allied has only been able to expand its pub estate after selling its 50 per cent stake in brewer Carlsberg-Tetley last year. The 1989 Beer Orders restricted the number of pubs brewers are allowed to own and Allied was close to its ceiling. Now, however, it is free to expand its estate as quickly as it likes, even though it will probably end up with a near 15 per cent in Carlsberg-Tetley after the Government recently blocked its takeover by Bass.

Separately, Reg Vardy, the motor dealer, said that the feelgood factor had spread to the car industry.

"Demand for new cars from retail customers is strong at the moment. There is more disposable income around and the economy is going well," Graeme Potts, the company's chief executive, said.

Woolwich shares go begging

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Former members of Woolwich building society were dealt a blow yesterday by another disappointing auction of unwanted shares in the new bank that saw professional City investors picking up stock for as little as 287p - against the 373.5p high at which anyone with a share certificate on Monday morning could have sold out.

The disappointing auction results so far mean shareholders will almost certainly have done much better to have opted for a share certificate and sold in early dealings than to have participated in the organised auction of unwanted shares staged this week by BZW on behalf of the Woolwich.

The average price achieved by the second auction on Tuesday night was 292.4p compared to the 313.4p raised by the first

sell-off on Monday night. Former members who chose to cash in their shares immediately via the auction process will receive the average price achieved in four sales, the last of which takes place later today.

In Monday's auction, institutions were prepared to bid up to 345p. But the shares fell again yesterday to close at 295p. At that price the minimum allocation of 450 shares is valued at £1.328.

Capital Radio chief on brink of joining ITV

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

Capital Radio's chief executive, Richard Eyre, is on the verge of quitting the radio group to join ITV in the newly created position of chief executive.

Mr Eyre, who has been with the radio group for six years, is understood to have been offered the post and is expected to accept this week. ITV is also believed to have one other candidate in the frame as a fall-back option. ITV and Capital declined to comment yesterday.

The new chief executive will oversee the creation of an ITV Limited to replace the Network Centre and ITV Association structure. Mr Eyre would have executive responsibility for the commercial network rather than simply the scheduling role of outgoing Network Centre chief Marcus Plattin.

The purpose of ITV Limited is to stop the in-fighting between ITV's three biggest broadcasters, Granada, Carlton and United News & Media. Competition between the three is deemed to have harmed the network's ability to compete with the BBC, Channel 4 and BSkyB and prevented the development of a coherent strategy for the multi-channel age.

While the BBC has stemmed the loss of viewers arising from

the competition of subscription satellite and cable services, ITV has watched its share of viewing erode from more than 36 per cent at the beginning of the Nineties to below 32 per cent in latest estimates.

Ironically, the rethink for ITV comes as advertising revenues are soaring on the back of high advertiser demand due to the consumer boom.

Mr Eyre's remuneration package from ITV is believed to be worth in the region of £500,000. Christine Walker, former chief executive of Carlton's media buying subsidiary, Zenith Media, is known to have been offered the post earlier in the summer. Another strong candidate is believed to have been Carlton's chief executive, Clive Jones.

Mr Eyre joined Capital ahead of the four-year boom in radio advertising revenue that saw the sector grow by more than 25 per cent each year.

He oversaw the company's expansion in independent local radio. More recently he took the group into the leisure sector with the purchase of themed restaurant chain My Kinda Town last year for £51m.

In May it was announced that Capital was proposing to buy Virgin Radio from Richard Branson. That deal is still to be cleared by the Radio Authority.

Liddell names the worst 24 pension firms

Nic Cicutti
Personal Finance Editor

Pension mis-selling cases to June 30 1997			
Name of Company	A	B	C
Hogg Robinson	802	1	0
Colonial	6,754	32	0
San	8,958	85	1
Sedgwick	6,731	64	1
Abbey Life	15,993	189	1
Allied Dunbar	16,422	182	1
Lincoln National	12,301	148	1
Whitaker Life	7,830	131	1
London & Manchester	6,944	117	2
Co-operative Insurance	41,762	825	2
Equitable Life	12,360	307	3
Britannic	26,862	1,002	4
Sun Life of Canada	13,192	573	4
NorthWest	12,648	585	5
United Assurance	39,548	2,076	5
Pearl	58,006	3,128	5
Prudential	9,357	532	6
Royal London	33,282	2,046	6
Legal & General	6,772	428	6
Norwich Union	46,582	3,310	6
Lloyds/TSB	14,995	1,213	7
Royal Sun Alliance	8,225	855	7
Guardian	16,700	2,315	14
Barclays Life			

A: Cases identified as requiring review.
B: Cases where redress has been accepted.
C: Cases where redress has been accepted as a percentage of cases identified for review. Some further cases will have been completed without redress being due.

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, yesterday warned the insurance industry that tough disciplinary action would be taken against companies and individuals if the pace of redress to pensions mis-selling victims did not improve markedly over the next three months.

The warning came as the Treasury issued its first "name and shame" list of 24 pension companies, which showed many of Britain's biggest household names had only compensated a handful of victims.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, also joined in the furor over the inability of providers to offer swift redress to pension victims, describing progress to date as "disappointing". He told MPs at Question Time: "We want to put further pressure on them to deal with this problem."

The Treasury's tables show that the percentage of agreed settlements is barely 1 per cent of cases for several companies and financial advisers. They include Allied Dunbar, Abbey Life, Sedgwick, the French insurer GAN, Colonial and Hogg Robinson.

Barclays Life, the most successful company on the list, has agreed to settle 2,315 cases out of the 16,700 it identified as being urgent priorities, a total of 14 per cent.

Pearl, Prudential, Royal London, Legal & General, Norwich Union and Lloyds/TSB Group had resolved between 5 and 7 per cent of cases by the end of last month.

In an answer to a Parliamentary question, Mrs Liddell said: "The volume of cases cleared is extremely disappointing. All the firms have a great deal more work to do. Some appear hardly to have begun."

"It is now imperative that all

firms - not just these 24 - which have sold personal pensions should make serious efforts to improve the performance in completing their case-loads. This is not only in the interests of their customers but also of their own reputations with the general public."

"I will decide once I have seen some further figures to measure progress what further action may be called for."

Among the options being considered by the Minister is the possibility of barring individuals, including company directors, from practising in the industry. Changes in the law needed to impose any necessary penalties have not been ruled out. Big fines against companies may also be levied by the Personal Investment Authority, the industry regulator.

Government demands for immediate action by pension providers follow a wait of almost three years by hundreds of thousands of people who were identified as having been mis-sold a personal pension in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Some companies pointed out, however, that the apparently low percentage of settled cases ignored many other claims that had been excluded for genuine reasons, including those where pensions were sold because no occupational scheme was available.

A spokeswoman for the Association of British Insurers, the industry trade body, said: "Companies have every intention of putting people back in the position they would have been had they not been mis-sold and we are disappointed that it has taken as long as this."

"We are confident that as the monthly figures are published they will show a rapid escalating proportion of completed cases."

Pedely replaces Thomas at Co-op Bank

Nigel Cope

The Co-op yesterday named the successor to Terry Thomas as chief executive of the Co-operative Bank. He is Mervyn Pedely, 48, who will take up the post in September, a month before Mr Thomas retires at the age of 60.

Mr Pedely is a partner with LEK Partnership, a firm of corporate strategy consultants, where he specialises in financial services. Previously, he was

a senior executive with TSB Group. He said he was looking forward to continuing Mr Thomas' work developing the Co-op Bank's ethical stance.

He said he was also hoping to improve the links between the bank and the Co-op's retail chain. Mr Pedely said: "I've admired the Co-op Bank enormously from afar over the years. They have developed a distinctive and profitable market position and I'm hoping to develop that."

He said he would be looking at introducing more banking operations in the retail outlets to capitalise more on the links. "The traditional barriers are breaking down and I am very interested in what the likes of Tesco, Sainsbury's and Safeway have been doing," he said.

Mr Thomas developed the bank's ethical stance under which it does not invest in tobacco companies, oppressive regimes or companies that test cosmetics on animals.

Mr Thomas has been chief executive since 1988. He joined the bank in 1973 as its first marketing manager. Mr Thomas was one of the most vociferous Co-op executives during Andrew Regan's abortive £1.2bn break-up bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which owns the Co-op Bank. At the height of the battle he launched a passionate attack on Mr Regan, saying the efforts of generations should not be plundered for profit.

Coal compensation bill may hit £1.3bn

Michael Harrison

The cost of compensating former mine workers for personal injury and industrial diseases could exceed the £1.3bn raised through the privatisation of British Coal, it emerged yesterday.

Legal judgement is expected this autumn on the extent of the corporation's liability in respect of chronic respiratory diseases caused by exposure to coal dust and a painful, debilitating condition known as vibration white finger, which is caused by excessive use of vibrating tools.

Although British Coal has declined to put a figure on its potential exposure, its final set of accounts, published yesterday, said the liabilities could be "very significant". The Government has agreed to fund whatever compensation the corporation has to pay.

The legal action against British Coal over what are known collectively as chronic obstructive airways diseases such as bronchitis, emphysema and asthma began last October. It is the largest single piece of industrial disease litigation undertaken in the UK.

Lawyers have brought a small number of lead cases against the

corporation as part of a class action. Depending on the court's ruling, it could open the floodgates to thousands of compensation claims. The corporation said it had not been able to make a special provision in its accounts because of the "considerable uncertainty" over its liability and the size of any damages.


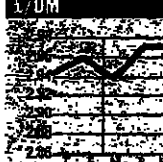

The report and accounts show that property sales and disposals of non-core businesses last year raised a further £143m for the Exchequer, bringing total revenues to over £1.3bn. Among the disposals were CTV Management, the company which manages the £15bn held in the two main coal pension funds, which was bought by Goldman Sachs. Richard Budge's RJB Mining bought the English coalfields in December 1994 for £815m.

British Coal also announced that Neil Clarke, its chairman since 1991, had retired on 1 July. He has been succeeded by Philip Hutchinson, the corporation's former secretary and director of legal affairs, who will continue in the job until the end of this year. In his final year Mr Clarke was paid £126,722, compared with £230,618 the previous year, while Mr Hutchinson received £125,307.

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield (%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	4762.40	+3.90	+0.1	4831.70	4056.50	3.42	Dow Jones*	8150	+24.00
FTSE 250	4395.50	-8.30	-0.1	4729.40	4395.50	3.77	Nikkei	21400	+100
FTSE 350	2286.00	+1.00	+0.0	2320.90	2017.90	3.49		20000	+100
FTSE SmallCap	2212.97	-4.31	-0.2	2374.20	2178.29	3.20		19000	+100
FT All-Share	2236.64	+0.98	+0.0	2269.38	1989.78	3.47		18000	+100
New York	7923.63	-39.68	-0.5	7962.31	5032.94	1.63		17000	+100
Tokyo	19697.17	-156.72	-0.8	20681.07	17303.86	0.81		16000	+100
Hong Kong	14703.73	-88.44	-0.6	15196.79	12056.17	2.95		15000	+100
Frankfurt	4055.86	+49.46	+1.2	4055.86	2848.77	1.37		14000	+100

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling*			UK medium gilt			US long bond			
3m	7.24		7.24			7.24			
6m	7.20		7.20			7.20			
12m	7.16		7.16			7.16			
18m	7.12		7.12			7.12			
24m	7.08		7.08			7.08			
Money Market Rates									
Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year
UK	6.81	7.44	7.08	7.09	7.11	8.01			
US	5.66	5.91	6.25	6.98	6.97	7.12			
Japan	0.53	0.78	2.30	3.29					
Germany	3.06	6.22	5.55	6.54	6.36				
Bond Yields*									
Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year
UK	6.81	7.44	7.08	7.09	7.11	8.01			
US	5.66	5.91	6.25	6.98	6.97	7.12			
Japan	0.53	0.78	2.30	3.29					
Germany	3.06	6.22	5.55	6.54	6.36				
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Rises	Falls	Stays	Stays	Falls	Stays	Falls	Stays	Falls	Stays
Quoted Group	536.5	44	8.9	Low & Bonar	211.5	32	13.1		
Aggregate Ind	48.5	3.3	7.2	British Biotech	186.5	19.5	7.7		
Marks & Spencer	534.5	26.5	6.2	Albright & Wilson	147	9	5.8		

CURRENCIES									
£/\$			£/DM			£/¥			
									
Aug 83			Aug 83			Aug 83			
Aug 84			Aug 84			Aug 84			
<div> <div>Pound</div> <div>Yesterday Change Year Ago</div> <div> £ (London) 1.6855 -0.50c 1.5835 £ (N York) 1.6845 -0.50c 1.5570 DM (London) 2.0657 -0.18c 2.0583 ¥ (London) 150.040 -10.35¢ 173.024 ¥ Index 104.1 -0.1 89.5 </div> </div> <div> <div>Dollar</div> <div>Yesterday Change Year Ago</div> <div> £ (London) 0.5933 +0.20 0.6437 £ (N York) 0.5936 +0.17 0.6423 DM (London) 1.7319 +0.47m 1.8246 ¥ (London) 112.759 +10.16 110.125 ¥ Index 102.3 -1.9 97.4 </div> </div>									
OTHER INDICATORS									
Yesterday Day's chg Year Ago				Index Latest Yr Ago Next Ftg					
Oil Brent \$ 18.53 +0.21 18.94				RPI 157.5 +0.40c 150.9 12 Aug					
Gold \$ 319.45 -1.5 363.20				GDP 100.7 +2.6pc 107.0 25 Jul					
Gold £ 189.52 -0.22 246.32				Base Rates - 8.50pc 8.75					



COMMENT

Try this waffle for size. According to Liffe chairman Jack Wigglesworth: "There is something very special about human beings being together in an environment where they are sharpening their wits together. There are a lot of nuances when you look into someone's face"

Eyeballing at Liffe denies commercial reality

Nobody could deny the City would be a duller place without the testosterone-fuelled antics of the barrow boys in striped jackets. But Liffe's renewed commitment to the system of open outcry looks nothing more than a victory of vested interests over technological and commercial reality.

Liffe completed a strategic review this week with the totally predictable decision to maintain the anachronistic tradition of eyeball-to-eyeball shouting matches it copied from the Chicago Board of Trade. Its woolly justifications for the maintenance of open-outcry failed to convince, however.

Try this waffle for size. According to Liffe chairman Jack Wigglesworth: "There is something very special about human beings being together in an environment where they are sharpening their wits together. There are a lot of nuances when you look into someone's face."

Chief executive Daniel Hodson takes a less romantic line, attributing the continuing success of open-outcry to greater liquidity, flexibility and transparency. But these are the arguments used to defend the old floor trading at the Exchange; nobody would dream of turning that clock back.

The main contradictions in Liffe's luddite stance are in its admission that there is strong market demand for screen-based trading, particularly outside normal trading hours, and in its recognition that the efficiency of the open-outcry system needs to be improved. Liffe has a commanding lead

in Europe, where volumes are higher than the futures and options markets in Frankfurt and Paris combined, but it is right to worry about complacency.

That said, it would be churlish to be too harsh on a market that in its first 15 years has already outgrown two homes. It had barely unpacked the boxes after its move from the Royal Exchange to Cannon Bridge before it started planning its next shift to Spitalfields, to go ahead next spring.

The 168 million Liffe contracts traded last year were 27 per cent higher than in 1995, itself 10 per cent up on the previous record, and there is no reason to believe London will not dominate the market for Euro-denominated contracts in the future. If this is an anachronism, it is at least a successful one.

Weird, wonderful and spooky world of Fids

Strange, spooky, and to be frank, rather stupid to articulate, consequences of the new Government's abolition of tax credits on dividends are cropping up like nobody's business. EMI and Allied Domecq yesterday announced they would be paying their dividends as "Foreign Income Dividends" (Fids). They are expected to be followed by Siebe, Tomkins and Reuters. That trickle could become a flood. Any company with unrelieved advance corporation tax problem is now going to pay its dividend as Fids.

In the past, many companies have shunned Fids, even though it might have been tax-advantageous to use them. This was because pension funds and other tax-exempt shareholders couldn't claim a tax credit on Fids while they could on ordinary UK dividends. As a consequence, Fids have never been fashionable. Now dividends are to be paid net to everyone it no longer matters whether they are paid in the ordinary manner or as Fids. Companies can stop worrying about their shareholder profile and concentrate simply on their tax position. Splendid news, then. Fids will finally be working in the way always intended.

Trouble is, they are going to be abolished in April 1999 in an undisguised revenue-raising manoeuvre by the Government. At that point the problem of unrelieved ACT will become acute for companies that earn a high proportion of profits overseas. This is worth a lot of money to the Government and as such it is not an unintended consequence. But it surely is an unfair one.

So on to the next weird consequence. The Treasury says it will look sympathetically at companies that find themselves in this position. The betting is that after intense lobbying it is about to cave in and allow a continuation of Fids for companies that make, say, 80 per cent or more of their profits overseas. Great idea, or would be were it not for the fact that companies on the border line would then have a clear tax incentive to invest overseas rather than at home. Spooky.

Then there are the market-makers. They've been coining it like Topsy out of a not-so-little tax scam that revolved around dividend payments. Now the Revenue is clamping down and dividend payments will be taxed as ordinary trading profits. But that's unfair, say market-makers - on this occasion with justification. The effect is they will now pay corporation tax on net dividends, raising their marginal rate on such payments to 51 per cent. There is even a possibility the move could drive market makers offshore, or even to Frankfurt, heaven forbid. Again the Treasury may be forced into an embarrassing climbdown.

The lesson of all this is that corporate tax has become a minefield through which the well intentioned but innocent should not be wandering without a proper route map. It is foolish to attempt piecemeal reform. A problem solved generally creates a host of others. The Government should perhaps conduct one of those reviews it seems to be so fond of before proceeding any further.

turning of its £8.7bn debt mountain. Euro-tunnel's banking syndicate, whose support is also needed, will vote in the autumn on their half of the deal.

The choice for its army of small and now-days mainly French shareholders is stark. It lies between massive dilution at the hands of the consortium's banks on the one hand and extinction on the other. Supposing shareholders vote through the restructuring, they will see their equity interest in the tunnel shrink to 45 per cent at best and a large chunk of the tunnel's free cash flow diverted in the direction of the banks for the foreseeable future. The alternative is substitution of Eurotunnel by its banks, the liquidation of the company, and the disappearance of their travel perks - about the only thing these days that makes them worth hanging on to.

Provided Eurotunnel can achieve a quorum today - no mean feat since 25 per cent of its shares need to be represented - the arithmetic should favour the management.

However, a significant number of shareholders may still be tempted to play for the highest stakes, calculating they will get a better deal by putting Eurotunnel under the protection of French bankruptcy law. That would be madness. The reality is that the package on offer today is the best they are likely to see.

Eurotunnel's shareholders may have been turkeys for buying the original prospectus, but they do not have to vote for an early

Eurotunnel turkeys can save their necks

Today is D-Day for Eurotunnel and, unless there is a mass outbreak of *la folie* on the other side of the Channel, the company should be half-way to financial salvation come close of play tonight. Shareholders will gather in Paris to vote on the restruc-

Chancellor set for a U-turn on foreign income dividends

Sameena Ahmad

The Government is expected to reveal today that it has been forced into an embarrassing U-turn on Budget changes to foreign income dividends.

Following fierce lobbying by UK multinationals, the Inland Revenue is expected to announce that it will allow companies which make a substantial proportion of their earnings, outside the UK to continue paying "Fids". That proportion is expected to be over 80 per cent. In the Budget, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had said that he would abolish foreign income dividends by April 6th 1999.

This ruling led to a rush of companies announcing that they would either start paying Fids for the first time or extend their Fids before the abolition. Siebe and Reuters are set to add

their names to Allied Domecq, EMI and Marling, which yesterday all said they would be paying Fids for the first time.

Late & Lytle, the sugar company, indicated that it could be extending its interim Fid to the full-year payment. Burmah Castrol, the oil giant, said it would not rule out paying the whole dividend as a Fid and Tomkins has said it is now considering Fids.

Ironically the reason for UK plc's sudden love affair with foreign income dividends is another change in Mr Brown's Budget, the abolition of tax credits on dividends paid from UK earnings.

Before the Budget, many companies which had enough overseas earnings theoretically to pay a Fid, chose not to do so because it disadvantaged their powerful non-tax-paying insti-

tutional investors. These investors preferred UK dividends which carried a juicy tax credit which they could reclaim, thereby getting their dividends gross.

In contrast Fids are normally paid net and so are worth less to investors. However with the tax credit gone and all investors effectively receiving their dividend net, companies are now free to enjoy the full benefits of paying Fids.

Their primary attraction is that, unlike normal dividends, Fids do not incur advanced corporation tax (ACT). Companies which do not make much profit in the UK and which therefore have a small mainstream corporation tax bill, cannot offset ACT paid on dividends against their normal tax bill, which pushes up their tax charge and hits earnings.

This was the main reason for the uproar when the government announced it was abolishing Fids. Without Fids, companies must pay ACT on their earnings made overseas. Not only does this raise their tax charge, but is an effective double taxation on overseas earnings.

A source at Siebe, the engineering giant, said that although the group does not have an unrelieved ACT problem, Fids had become more attractive since the Budget and the company intended paying them: "We didn't want to pay Fids before the Budget because we would have had to pay them gross to keep investors happy. But now we can use Fids to take ACT immediately off our balance sheet."

Siebe currently has £31m of ACT of which £19m is off-

setable against current mainstream tax and the rest against deferred tax. "We see this as careful tax planning. Some companies have a real problem. We are saying, here is an opportunity," the source said.

He did not indicate when the group would start paying ACT, but said the group could save around £10m on its ACT bill. "It will be big numbers."

A spokesman for Guinness, which makes over 80 per cent of its earnings outside the UK, said that given the merger with Grand Metropolitan it would be inappropriate to discuss dividend policy: "We are under Takeover Panel rules."

At its recent results, Tomkins said it was thinking about paying Fids. Though the group does not yet have an ACT problem, it could become an issue.

Market-makers win fight over tax changes

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

A concerted programme of lobbying by senior City figures is understood to have persuaded the Government to reconsider its plans to tax as trading profits the dividends received by market-makers. It is thought the main City firms have warned the Treasury that tax changes announced in the Budget might lead to market-makers moving their activities offshore.

According to one head of market-making, the Treasury is admitting privately that it misunderstood the implications of its proposed clampdown on tax avoidance in the City.

The measure was announced as an attempt to close a loophole that has long irritated the Inland Revenue and provided a useful stream of income for market-makers. The proposed change would end the tax ex-

emption which share dealers used to enjoy on dividend income from the shares they held on their dealing book. Instead the dividends will be taxed as trading profits.

Previously a market-maker was able to receive a dividend tax-free while offsetting any fall in the capital value of the shares held against taxable profits. That created the possibility of buying a share just before it went ex-dividend and using the payment and the consequent fall in the value of the share as a means of minimising tax payments.

Although market-makers are understood to have been successful in persuading the Treasury they have been unfairly treated, a senior accountant yesterday expressed surprise that the Government would be swayed by their arguments. He said the changes actually levelled the tax system which had

previously not treated market-makers' long and short positions in the same way.

UK banks have argued that the overall effect of the changes will be to put them at a competitive disadvantage compared with foreign competitors, which in some cases can deduct the tax levied on their UK trading profits from their own domestic tax bills under the provisions of double taxation treaties.

It is thought unlikely that UK banks would move their equity trading operations offshore, but the threat may have been enough for the Government to look again at changes which took the City by surprise.

The biggest impact of the proposed changes is likely to be in the complex area of derivative-backed contracts that investment banks have sold to insurance companies to back guaranteed bonds sold in the retail market.



Midland Interest Rates for Personal Customers

Midland Bank Base Rate Effective from: 9 June 1997 6.5% Per Annum			
The following rates are effective from 8 July 1997			
CURRENT ACCOUNTS			
	Gross %	Net %	
Midland Bank Account	0.30%	0.24%	
Meridian			
Up to £2,000	0.30%	0.24%	
£2,000+	1.25%	1.00%	
£10,000+	2.96%	2.36%	
Home Management Account	0.30%	0.24%	
16-19 year old Account	2.48%	1.98%	
Livestash	2.96%	2.36%	
OVERDRAFTS			
Increased by	Per Month %	EAR %	
Midland Bank Account	0.48%	1.05%	13.8%
Meridian			
Up to £2,000	0.48%	1.05%	13.8%
£2,000+	0.6%	1.05%	13.3%
£10,000+	0.6%	1.00%	12.6%
Unauthorised	0.3%	1.875%	24.9%
LOANS			
Increased by	Per Annum %	APR	
Save and Borrow	0.5%	21.75	23.4
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS			
TESSA	7.00% Tax Free		
Follow up TESSA	7.00% Tax Free		
High Interest Deposit Bond			
Annual Interest	Gross %	Net %	
3 Year	7.25	5.80	
2 Year	7.00	5.60	
1 Year	6.25	5.00	
6 Months	6.00	4.80	
Monthly Interest			
	Gross %	Net %	
3 Year	7.00	5.60	
2 Year	6.75	5.40	
1 Year	6.00	4.80	
6 Months	5.75	4.60	
Exchequer			
90 Day Notice			
Up to £10,000			
£10,000+	4.75	3.80	
£25,000+	5.00	4.00	
£50,000+	5.50	4.40	
£100,000+	5.75	4.60	
£250,000+	6.00	4.80	
	6.25	5.00	
Monthly Interest			
	Gross %	Net %	
Up to £10,000	4.41	3.52	
£10,000+	4.65	3.72	
£25,000+	5.13	4.10	
£50,000+	5.37	4.29	
£100,000+	5.61	4.48	
£250,000+	5.85	4.68	
30 Day Notice			
	Gross %	Net %	
Up to £25,000	4.50	3.60	
£25,000+	4.75	3.80	
£50,000+	5.00	4.00	
£100,000+	5.50	4.40	
Monthly Interest			
	Gross %	Net %	
Up to £25,000	4.17	3.33	
£25,000+	4.41	3.52	
£50,000+	4.65	3.72	
£100,000+	5.13	4.10	
Meridian Savings			
(Instant Access)			
Up to £25,000	4.17	3.33	
£25,000+	4.41	3.52	
£50,000+	4.65	3.72	
£100,000+	5.13	4.10	
Saver Plus			
(Instant Access)			
All balances	3.97	3.17	
High Interest Cheque Account			
(Instant Access)			
£2,000+	1.50	1.20	
£10,000+	2.24	1.79	
£25,000+	2.88	2.38	
£50,000+	3.47	2.77	

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Net: The rate after the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.
Tax Free: Tax free means that the interest is free of tax applied to interest on savings. EAR: Equivalent Annual Rate.

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business

Drug fears and health warning give biotech sector heart failure

Sameena Ahmad

Fears that two key drugs being developed by British Biotech have fallen behind schedule and a warning from the US drug regulator that anti-obesity drugs may cause heart disease unnerved the UK biotechnology sector yesterday.

Shares in Medeva, the UK drug group that makes the lornalamin anti-obesity drug fell 14p to 248p and British Biotech's shares slumped to 175p at one point before closing 13.5p down at 185.5p.

British Biotech said that it was expanding clinical trials on its lead Zacutax product, a

treatment for pancreatitis which would delay approval of the drug in the US by 12 to 18 months.

Some analysts at British Biotech's annual results meeting were also disappointed that data from crucial Phase III trial data on Marimastat, British Bio's big-hope cancer drug, would not be released until early 1999. Several had expected the results at the end of next year.

However, Mark Brewer, analyst at Hoare Govett said expectations that the group would file clinical data from Marimastat next year were "misplaced". Keith McCullagh, British Bio-

tech's chief executive, said he had indicated the filing date at the group's last results.

"There is no delay and the Marimastat trials are going extremely well." The company is starting two new Marimastat trials in lung and ovarian cancer, taking its total to six trials in a variety of serious cancers. "We are testing this drug in the severest tumour types", Mr McCullagh said.

The expansion of the Zacutax trials from 450 to 1,500 patients was based on data from the UK which showed that Zacutax increased survival rates. The new trials would include a measure of mortality as well as

original measures like organ failure rates. Though the expansion would delay approval in the US, Mr McCullagh said it was positive longer term. "We are changing the end point of the trial to a more powerful one. We will now compare Zacutax and a placebo on survival rates. If we are able to prove that it saves lives we will get rapid approval by the FDA [US drug regulator]. If we can claim this drug saves lives we can ask a much better price. It is good for shareholders in the long term."

The news had no impact on European approval of Zacutax, expected in around a year.

Separately, Medeva yesterday was playing down a "dear doctor" letter sent by the FDA, warning doctors in the US that heart valve problems were associated with patients taking the anti-obesity drug fen-phen made by American Home Products.

Medeva, which makes the drug under the brand name lornalamin, said its product was recommended only for short-term treatment, but that the heart problems occurred in patients taking the drug for over a year and related to only 24 patients. But the group added that it was talking to the FDA about the wording on its packaging.

Sales figures pick up at Sainsbury's

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Sainsbury's continued its recovery yesterday when it announced encouraging news on current trading. Speaking at the company's annual general meeting in central London, Sainsbury's chairman, David Sainsbury, said total sales in the 16 weeks to the end of June were 8.3 per cent ahead of the same period last year.

Stripping out new store openings, the like-for-like sales figure is 4.2 per cent.

The shares rose 11.5p to 392.5p on the news. This is their highest level since January and shows a continued recovery since the shares sank to 309p in February following the supermarket group's disastrous profits warning.

Analysts said the trading statement was encouraging though the figures were still some way below sales increases announced by rivals such as Asda and Tesco. "It's steady as she goes," said one analyst. "The shares have risen more out of relief than anything. But things are gradually getting a bit better at Sainsbury's and the shares have rallied strongly."

Sainsbury's said its increase was despite a decline in sales inflation, which is now less than 1 per cent, mainly because of lower prices for fruit and vegetables. Mr Sainsbury said: "Our sales growth has continued to exceed industry averages. We expect to sustain like-for-



Encouraging: David Sainsbury said growth would continue

like sales growth above inflation in the year ahead."

However, he cautioned that sales inflation may fall further until late summer. He also said the company was starting to come up against tougher sales comparisons as it had passed the anniversary of the launch of its Reward loyalty card.

The company said gross margins were stable. Like-for-like

sales in the Homebase DIY group were 9 per cent ahead though kitchen sales were poor.

Sales at SavaCentre and Shaw's, the US business, are in line with the figure at the year end. It is thought that Sainsbury's may see a potential impact of £10m to £20m from the changes to employers' pension contributions announced in last week's Budget.

Clinton douses tobaccos

David Osborne
New York

In remarks that helped to depress shares of BAT Industries in London, President Bill Clinton yesterday criticised a key provision in last month's landmark agreement between US states and the big cigarette companies.

President Clinton, speaking at the end of the Nato summit in Madrid, said he could not accept clauses in the pact that would restrict the authority of the Food and Drug Adminis-

tration to set nicotine levels in cigarettes.

The statement underlined the fragility of the 20 June pact, under which the tobacco companies agreed to pay out \$368bn (£218bn) for compensation payments and for anti-smoking campaigns over 25 years in return for protection from future litigation and for curbs on the FDA's power.

As negotiations on passing the agreement into law get started, it is also becoming clear that the recent turbulence for tobacco stocks is far

from over. In London, BAT shares shed 12p at 536.5p.

Negotiating the agreement, the tobacco giants won provisions insisting the FDA should not outlaw nicotine in cigarettes for at least another 12 years. Before attempting to lower levels, the FDA would have to demonstrate it would not create a black-market.

Calling the provision an "unreasonable restriction", the President said he was confident that removing it from the pact would not prompt the tobacco firms to withdraw.

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WITH VIDEOCONFERENCING EQUIPMENT

IN BRIEF

Firms look to future for incentive plans

The number of FTSE 100 companies operating long-term incentives linked to future performance as an alternative to traditional share option plans has continued to increase in the past year, according to the latest annual survey of boardroom earnings by remuneration specialists Monks Partnership. However, the report, published today, also indicates that the tide may be turning, with 17 companies identified as having share options as the sole long-term incentive and a further eight intending to use options as the main incentive. In addition, the study, based on information in annual reports available at the beginning of June, shows that full-time chairmen and chief executives of leading companies can expect to earn a total of about £550,000, with other directors receiving about half as much.

Zeneca to invest £31m in plant

Zeneca Group plans to invest £31m at its Macclesfield site to provide further manufacturing capacity for its Zoladex prostate and breast cancer treatment. The investment would be used to build a plant dedicated to Zoladex, adding to existing capacity and capable of manufacturing 3.6mg and 10.8mg deposits, Zeneca said. The facility is expected to be operational in 2000.

Shares in Remy Cointreau plunge

Shares in Remy Cointreau, the French drinks group in which Highland Distilleries has a large indirect holding, plunged 9 per cent to £135 after the group reported a 70 per cent drop in net profit to £13.6m (£3.6m) for the year to the end of March. Analysts had been looking for profits of £132m. Restructuring costs and provisions exceeded income from disposals by £101m against a net income of £7.6m the previous year. Promotional spending also rose by £100m. In the first three months of the current year sales were 13.4 per cent above the first quarter a year ago.

United Drug buys Dublin for Ir£15m

United Drug made an agreed Ir£15.1m offer for Dublin Drug. Under the terms of the deal, United Drug will offer three of its shares for every four of Dublin. The offer also includes an additional payment of 10p per Dublin share after two years subject to 75 per cent of the business transferring to United Drug. Dublin is a wholesaler and distributor of pharmaceutical and healthcare products in Ireland. A subsidiary company, Blackhall Pharmaceuticals, distributes healthcare products. In 1996, Dublin reported pre-tax profits of Ir£730,000 on sales of almost Ir£44m. United said the bid reflected the "strategic importance with which United Drug views the expansion of its wholesale business in Ireland".

BT cuts cost of calls to mobile phones

British Telecom is cutting the cost of calls to cellular phones operated by its majority-owned Celtel and by Vodafone by between 1p and 3p per minute to take effect from 7 August. The cut reflects an agreement on payments between BT and the two companies and is the third price reduction in just over a year. Day-time calls are cut to 36.5p per minute from 37.5p, and evening and night-time calls are cut to 23p from 25p. The cost of weekend calls is cut to 10.5p per minute from 12.5p.

Marling Industries reports £5m loss

Marling Industries, manufacturers of high-performance synthetic fabrics for industrial use, reported a 6 per cent drop in turnover and a £5.24m loss in the year to the end of March after providing £7.1m for losses on disposals. Seat webbing sales rose 10 per cent but the sale of Muller Elastics reduced turnover and the strength of sterling reduced profits by almost £1m. The final dividend of 0.12p is being paid as a FID. It makes 0.24p for the year.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Dixons (F)	2,40m (1.8m)	190.2m (135.2m)	28.4p (22.7p)	10.5p (8.75p)
Peapack (F)	119.5m (105.2m)	8.3m (7.3m)	25.15p (22.54p)	9.9p (8.8p)
Marling Industries (F)	62.7m (67.1m)	-5.24m (5.05m)	-3.84p (1.53p)	0.24p (0.85p)
Reflex (10 months)	337,000 (3,000)	-494,000 (-6,000)	-6.42p (-2.48p)	nil
RFC Group (F)	94.2m (85.8m)	10.49m (8.65m)	11.9p (10.2p)	4.2p (3.5p)
Reg Vardy (F)	677m (675m)	17.1m (14.2m)	21.7p (20.9p)	7.5p (6.5p)
Wagon Industrial (F)	387.2m (410.3m)	-46.9m (19.8m)	-94.1p (23.2p)	12.9p (19.75p)

(F) - Final (M) - interim (10) - 10 months

Cammell Laird bosses to net £14m on flotation

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Cammell Laird's directors, who bought the remnants of the historic Birkenhead shipyard after its closure four years ago, are poised to emerge with stakes in the company worth almost £14m when it floats on the stock market this month.

The prospectus also shows that six directors will take the opportunity to sell shares worth £5.5m, raising an average of £580,000 each.

The flotation will raise a total of £7.5m through a placing by stockbrokers Beeson Gregory to institutional investors and private clients.

The flotation values the business at 12 times its 1997 earnings before exceptional items. In the year to the end of April it made pre-tax profits of £2.2m. Mr Stafford, 46, organised the purchase of the north yard at Birkenhead through Coastline Industries, a company which

£8m. Stephen Martin, Cammell's operations director, would emerge with a 9 per cent stake valued at £1.9m.

Though staff will also share in the bonanza, the core workforce of 250 people will emerge with around 1 per cent of the company, worth £200,000. It gives employees an average share bonus of about £800.

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comprised most of the current management. Cammell Laird stressed that the directors had borrowed some £6m since the deal two years ago to invest in new equipment.

The flotation will raise £4m of new capital for Cammell Laird Technical Services, a specialist marine architecture and support business. It will also enable the company to bring two dry docks on the site back to working order, raising repair capacity. Cammell Laird has been successful in bidding for repair and refitting work from the Ministry of Defence, including a recent deal with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

The yard, which once employed 17,000, saw its order book decline steadily during the 1970s and 1980s and closed in 1993 with the loss of some 400 jobs. The closure of the site, the birthplace of famous vessels such as *Ark Royal*, ended 160 years of shipbuilding in Birkenhead.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN
EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Dixons impresses but there are clouds on the horizon

Dixons is a company that likes nothing better than to thumb its nose at its critics and it did so yesterday in some style. The stock market was treated to a double profit, booming like-for-like sales increases and a share price which jumped 44.5p to within touching distance of its year high. It could all have been so different.

The past six months have seen enough scare stories to make the Dixons share price go saggy at the knees. We have seen Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, sell a chunk of shares, Ken Clarke's final Budget introduce an insurance premium tax that could have knocked the company's warranty profits for six and an MMC inquiry into Recommended Retail Prices rear its ugly head.

Yesterday showed benefits of the two Ws - the weather and building society windfalls - to Dixons' current trading. But there is also an underlying message that Dixons might just deserve to be treated as a genuine growth company and less of a cyclical stock with a mean rating.

First the two Ws. The dismal June weather boosted Dixons' like-for-like sales as summer sunshine normally pushes consumers towards the garden and the summer clothing shops rather than hot electrical outlets.

Then the windfall factor is giving the company an immediate, if one-off, boost. Dixons admits it will not be able to sustain the 17 per cent like-for-like increases recorded in the first nine weeks of the current year. But even the 8 per cent figure recorded over the full year is impressive.

Added to this is new product opportunities provided by digital technology. Digital televisions, videos and so on are yet to hit the shops.

There are potential clouds on the horizon. Higher interest rates will have a dampening effect on consumer spending and Dixons' "clever" trick of mitigating the damage of the insurance premium tax is likely to be scrutinised by the OFT. The tax could have knocked £30m from Dixons' Mastercard warranty service. But by re-jigging the insurance policy as a service contract it has reduced the VAT effect to less than £10m.

With 70 stores to open this year across the Currys, The Link and PC World formats, Dixons' grip on the electricals market is growing ever tighter. The question is whether Dixons has earned the right to be rated as a growth stock rather than a cyclical one. With some analysts hailing their full-year forecasts from £215m to £240m, that puts Dixons shares on a forward rating of 13. Things could look different in 18 months' time with the windfalls gone and higher mortgage rates. But for now, the shares look good value.

Vardy ready for revolution

The British car industry is undergoing a quiet revolution. Manufacturers want to sell cars through fewer, large regional-based dealerships to cut distribution costs. Ford for example is halving its dealership network. Vauxhall and Rover are following suit. The days of individual dealerships look numbered.

For the larger groups this shake-up is bound to create winners and losers. The revolution is still in its early days but Reg Vardy has already emerged as a winner.

Manufacturers are picking dealers with the best records for proving they can regularly hit targets for shifting cars.

The favoured dealers must also have solid finances so they can afford to invest heavily in acquiring new sites and building new premises. Reg Vardy fits the bill on both accounts.

It has a good reputation in the trade and gave itself the room to manoeuvre financially after raising £27m in last July's rights issue. Now it is picking up new dealerships across the country with anybody from Ford to Nissan. It added another 10 in the past year to bring its total to 50 and should get up to 60 dealerships within the next 18 months.

The group has experienced growing pains. Together the new dealerships, most of which are on greenfield sites, cost £1m and will do well to break even this year. Even so, profits for the year to April rose by a fifth to £17.1m.

And its investment, which reached around £40m, should begin to bear fruit over the next few years.

Strong expansion prospects are underpinned by a buoyant car market, fuelled by the consumer boom.

Vardy's car sales increased by 17 per cent against a market rise of around 5 per cent while used car sales were up by a fifth.

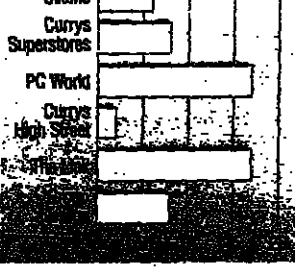
Finance: Gordon forecasts profits of £19.2m this year, putting the shares, which slipped 12.5p to 287.5p, on a forward rating of 12. Good value.

Dixons: At a glance

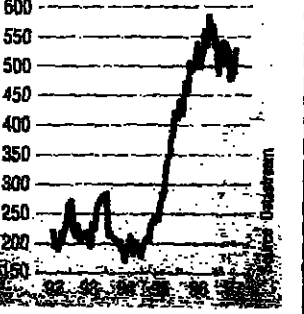
Market value: £2.2bn, share price 536.5p (+44p)					
Five-year record	93	94	95	96	97
Turnover (£m)	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Pre-tax profits (£m)	33.5	(185.2)	100.3	101.5	202.2
Earnings per share (p)	6.9	(44.1)	16.8	17.5	35.5
Dividends per share (p)	8.8	6.6	7.25	8.75	10.5

Like for like sales increase

(53 weeks to 3 May 1997, %)



Share price, (pence)



FI stands for fantastic investment

FI must be a very jolly place to work. Not only can employees of this forward-thinking, female-led software group trade holidays, cars and even their pensions for cash, but three-quarters of its salaried workers are also shareholders.

Happily for them, FI could be renamed Fantastic Investment. Floated at 235p just 15 months ago, the shares, which rose another 6.5p yesterday, now stand at 521.5p. All the signs still look good.

Demand for outsourcing information technology services is being driven not only by the familiar euro and year 2000 issues, but also by deregulation in the energy sector and mergers in the financial world, 38 per cent of FI's turnover.

Profits for the year to April rose 40 per cent to £6.58m, all organic, on turnover a quarter ahead at £99m. FI's order books are bursting, rising 52 per cent to £110m. Renewal rates on

contracts are high and FI's well-crafted share option schemes, where employees can earn multiples of their salaries, means that FI is attracting and keeping staff despite a chronic shortage of IT experts.

Hilary Cropper's shift from chief executive to deputy chairman, and eventually executive chairman, makes sense. Overseeing strategy will give Ms Cropper the chance to investigate untapped markets such as desk-top management and human resources. Though margins are still growing, FI may come under some pressure as contract rates fall and staff costs rise, but with demand still exceeding supply that is not a pressing problem.

Ross Jobber at UBS forecasts £8m profits for 1998. The shares are rated at 30 times 1998 and 25 times 1999 earnings. Pretty steep, but in line with the rest of the IT sector. Given the illiquidity of the stock, FI's share price can swing a bit. But a quality company, so hold on.

Low & Bonar ends Kellogg contract

Clifford German

Low & Bonar's investors were stunned yesterday by news that the company was terminating a contract to supply cartons to Kellogg, the maker of cereals. The company's shares plunged 33p to 243.5p following the announcement, which was made less than an hour before the stock market closed.

A spokesman for Low said the company was unable to meet the new low price required to retain the Kellogg contract to supply cartons for a further five years when the agreement expired in May 2001.

Jim Hellig, chief executive of Low, said the contract would run its course and there would be no effect on group profits for the next two years. The market value of the equipment exceeded book value, even if a replacement contract could be negotiated.

There should be no immediate effect on the 230 employees at the Low & Bonar plant at

Earlham, near Manchester, which is dedicated to the Kellogg contract.

Low said the price levels required to retain the contract would have resulted in a minimal return on the significant capital investment needed.

The product specification would be unchanged but new generation of equipment needed would have cost up to £15m.

The deal with Kellogg, which recently put out to tender its world-wide purchasing contracts, is worth about £40m a year. While this equals almost 10 per cent of group turnover, the profit margins are narrow.

"We could not justify to our shareholders the retention of this business at unacceptable margins," Mr Hellig said.

The announcement came just 48 hours after the company announced a 16 per cent drop in profits to £23m for the six months to May and a two-point drop in margins to 11 per cent on static sales of £215m.

market report / shares



Investors seduced by the sweet sound of cash registers

Taking Stock

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

As the Bank of England deliberated over the size of today's interest rate increase the stock market was enraptured by the ring of cash tills.

Dixons, the electrical retailer, created the excitement. It offered astonishing evidence of the sales surge being enjoyed by retailers as a result of the conversion windfalls from former building societies Alliance & Leicester, Halifax and Woolwich and the Norwich Union insurance group.

Stock market analysts quickly lifted their profit forecasts for Dixons and a host of other retailers and likely beneficiaries of the windfall loot.

Dixons led the blue-chip leader board with a 44p gain to 536.5p. At one time the shares hit 543p. Last year's profits, largely free of worries, influenced, emerged at £190.2m, a shade below expectations. However comments by John Clare, chief executive, on cur-

rent trading left analysts breathlessly increasing their current-year forecasts with Nick Bubb at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull shooting for £240m and suggesting the shares could hit 600p.

The Dixons exuberance spread to other leading retailers with Marks & Spencer gaining 26.5p to 534.5p and Kingfisher 28p to 692.5p.

Boots 20.5p to 782p, Great Universal Stores 16.5p to 614.5p and Next 23p to 708.5p were also in the money.

Superstores built on their recent strength with Asda 1.75p firmer at 159.25p and Sainsbury 12p to 387p. Surprisingly housebuilding and leisure shares, by and large, made only modest progress.

Footsie managed to close with a 3.9-point gain at 4,762.4. In a roller-coaster session the index moved from extremes of a 19.6 gain to a 28.7 loss.



to reflect the power of the pound with Wolsley off 20p to 425.5p and Reuters 23.5p to 568p.

TI, the engineering share hit hard by sterling's strength, scored a 9.5p gain to 466p. The group believes it has been unfairly lumped with the sterling sufferers. Only 10 per cent of its turnover is exported.

Faribas, the French-owned investment house, upgraded its advice to buy because "there can be no way that the fundamentals for this group have deteriorated as sharply as the share price". Analyst Chris Avery is looking for a modest profit increase to £234m this year with £260m next.

Railtrack put on 28p to 713p, still signalling relief over its windfall tax penalty and growing appreciation of the worth of its property portfolio.

Imperial Chemical Industries ran into yet another profits downgrade and, for once, US buyers failed to prevent a fall - 10.5p to 806p. HSBC produced the lowest estimates yet, cutting from £470m to £355m and from 650m to £385m.

General Electric Co dipped to 332p, managing director George Simpson picked up 30,000 shares at 347p.

The drugs sector was under the weather. British Biotech's progress report created fears that key drugs had fallen be-

hind schedule and the US Food and Drug Administration issued a "clear doctor" letter about Medeva's obesity treatment drug, Iomaxin. Bribio fell 15.5p to 185.5p and Medeva 14p to 248p.

Low & Bonar, the paper and packaging group, tumbled a further 32p to 211.5p, lowest since 1992. Just two days after producing dismal figures it let it be known it would not renew a £40m-a-year contract with Kellogg which ends in three years.

Insurances attracted another round of bid speculation with GRE 9.5p higher at 277p and Commercial Union, seen as a beneficiary of French pension changes, 15.5p to 673p.

Warford Investments continued to reflect the 10.32 per cent build up by rival Shaftsbury, gaining 15p to 335.5p. On the fringe, OTC market the tug-of-war over Display IT left the shares down 20p at 290p.

Walker Greenbank, the wall coverings group, fell 5p to

47.5p, lowest for five years. Delayed trades, one at 44p, did the damage.

Chemical group Metrochem said it was unable to explain the weakness of its shares; they fell a further 4p to 29.5p against a 35.5p high.

David Glass Associates, the property management concern, shaded to 129.5p despite an approach, indicating a 153p share exchange offer, from Hercules Property Services, down 7.5p to 251p.

Armour Trust, the car accessories to personal care group, was another to disclose a bid approach. It coupled the news with a profits warning, falling 2.25p to 23.75p.

Properties were again firm; Warford Investments continued to reflect the 10.32 per cent build up by rival Shaftsbury, gaining 15p to 335.5p. On the fringe, OTC market the tug-of-war over Display IT left the shares down 20p at 290p.

Whisperers from Ireland suggest Cambridge Mineral Resources, which arrived on Olex in February, is edging closer to finding diamonds at its Inishowen prospect in County Donegal. The company is thought to be so encouraged by studies of samples that it is aiming to start drilling next year. CMR, unchanged at 12p, has recently won another three gemstone prospecting licences, near to Inishowen. It is also seeking gemstones in Spain and Sweden.

Arten, the electrical group, fell 5p to 34p, lowest for more than a year. It is yet another casualty of the strong pound. Chairman Creville Howard has made it clear the group, making small electrical items, needs acquisitions to generate growth. Profits around £4m are expected this year, down from £4.55m.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights & Ex dividend & Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended by one of the two-digit codes below.

Source: FT Information

FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Price	04	Privatisation Issues	36
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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
British Steel	250000	Sainsbury	100000	British Airways	100000	British Airways	100000
British Steel	250000	Sainsbury	100000	British Airways	100000	British Airways	100000

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 4765.5 up 2.0	11.00 4765.5 up 2.0	12.00 4765.5 up 2.0	13.00 4765.5 up 2.0	Close 4765.5 up 2.0
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Telecommunications

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Textiles & Apparel

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
Next	708.50	Next	708.50	Next	708.50	Next	708.50

Pharmaceuticals

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
Glaxo	120.00	Glaxo	120.00	Glaxo	120.00	Glaxo	120.00

Printing & Paper

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
Wiggins Teape	100.00	Wiggins Teape	100.00	Wiggins Teape	100.00	Wiggins Teape	100.00

Property

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
Imperial Chemical	806.00	Imperial Chemical	806.00	Imperial Chemical	806.00	Imperial Chemical	806.00

Support Services

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Water

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

THE INDEPENDENT

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Government Securities

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Mediums

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Longs

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Shorts

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Undated

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Index-linked

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Mediums

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Longs

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Shorts

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Undated

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Index-linked

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Mediums

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Longs

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Shorts

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

Undated

Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price	Stock	Price
British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00	British Telecom	100.00

We have to add social capital to the free market equation

There is a real epidemic of morality in economics at the moment. It is not that members of the dismal profession have started behaving better – most, of course, are models of virtue to start with. Rather, it is that an increasing amount of interesting analysis has started to focus on the impact of values on economic outcomes.

This is the kind of thing that sounds pretty obvious to most non-economists – for example, it is pretty obvious that people with a stronger work ethic will work harder. However, the modern discipline of economics has always shrunk from anything that involves making overt value judgments.

Even welfare economics – the sub-branch that looks specifically at the well-being of particular groups or individuals – restricts itself to saying that there is only an improvement in welfare if somebody is better off and nobody is worse off. No room here for judgments between competing interests, the fabric of real life.

This fear of making a judgment, of applying the labels "better" or "worse" is in retreat – and not a moment too soon, according to the many critics of the subject as it is practised in universities and official organisations. Even better, the muscular intellectual rigor of the discipline, its fondness for equations and evidence and formal proofs, means that this new thinking about values is incredibly fruitful. There is nothing wishy-washy about it.

At least three examples of the new value-driven economics leap to mind. They crop up in writing about economic development, about national competitive advantage, and about unemployment. All introduce the idea that values, culture and history make a difference to hard economic outcomes, to the number of jobs and the level of prosperity.

The first piece of evidence is the World Bank's recent annual World Development Report, called this year, *The State in a Changing World*. The World Bank has long been criticised by non-govern-



Diane Coyle

It is obvious that people with a stronger work ethic will work harder. But modern economics has always shrunk from anything that makes overt value judgments

mental aid organisations for its ultra-orthodox free-market approach to the poor countries it lends to. It has made the adoption of Anglo-Saxon style capitalism, in theory at least, a condition of its loans – removing tariffs, deregulating prices, shrinking government spending and so on.

The bank has not abandoned free-market philosophy by any means, but the new report puts at centre stage questions about other dimensions of policy in poor countries. Is the government corrupt? Does the rule of law hold? How unequal is the society? Do girls have access to primary education? For the answers to these questions, on the face of it irrelevant to the macro-economic outcomes, make

all the difference to whether or not aid policies work.

The report concludes that it is not necessary to have a minimalist state, as ultra-free market thinkers would conclude, but an effective state. Politics, history, institutions and laws will determine how well the economy works, and there is no one-size-fits-all development strategy.

A second example of value-laden economics was provided in a presentation at a conference in London by Professor John Kay, head of Oxford University's new management school. An expert on competitive advantage, he argued that there is a role for the Government in boosting British business. This role is nothing so crude as trying to pick winners, 1960s style.

Rather, it is shaping the general cultural and legal framework in which all companies operate to ensure that business can take best advantage of the things the nation excels at. What governments do is shape the nation's history, and history plays a crucial role in determining competitive advantage. It is just like the old joke about asking for directions to Oswaldtwistle (in my part of the world): "Ee, I can tell you 'ow to get there, but not from 'ere".

My third illustration is recent research about unemployment and job creation. A report published last week by the Council of Churches, *Unemployment and the Future of Work*, not surprisingly takes a strong moral stance on the need to create jobs offering decent pay and conditions for all who want them. It attacks the prevalence of poverty and growth of inequality.

Interestingly, much of its detailed analysis bears a strong resemblance to the conclusions of the latest annual Employment Outlook from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Another bastion of conventional economic analysis, its report this year focuses on earnings inequality and low pay.

The focus is the result of the reluctance of some high-unemploy-

ment member countries, notably France, to adopt its job-creation prescriptions.

The OECD sticks by these – broadly, the kind of deregulation that Conservative governments introduced in the UK. However, it accepts that inequality and social exclusion extract a price in terms of economic growth. They reduce the economy's productive potential. "Many workers are trapped in a cycle of low pay and no pay, with potential negative consequences for poverty and their productive capacity, as well as that of the economy as a whole," the report says. It stresses the role education and training play in reducing social and economic exclusion, and it recommends further research on policies to combat low pay and inequality.

You could describe this as an admission that the New Labour approach is a necessary successor to the Tory approach to jobs policies. A unifying theme in all three areas is the importance of social capital to the economy. The phrase comes from sociology, but appeals to economists because it fits in with the way the profession thinks about economic growth.

The importance of physical capital, the history of investment in machinery, equipment and buildings, has always been recognised as having a central role in growth. For the past quarter century or so, economists' recognition of the importance of human capital has strengthened. This refers to the skills, attributes and educational attainments of the workers using the physical capital. It highlights the importance of investment in education and training.

Social capital encompasses an even broader concept of investment – history per se. It covers the detail of the society in which markets are embedded, its culture, regulations, informal understandings and so on. It is a concept which, rightly, injects history and politics into the heart of the study of economics. Which is, after all, how it started out, as the study of political economy in 18th century Scotland.

Biotech springs a surprise with its new finance chief

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Pastures new: James Noble, formerly of British Biotech

British Biotech has surprised observers by going outside the pharmaceutical industry for its new finance director, the previous incumbent, James Noble, having stepped out earlier this year. Malcolm Fallon's most recent job has been finance director of British Telecom's Personal Communications Division, but Dr Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's chief executive, insists the two companies are "analogous" since they both invest heavily in research and development.

The precocious Mr Fallon, 37, who read economics at Cambridge, is also valuable to the company because of his cross-border experience, says Mr McCullagh, gained while working with Bower, now Nexm.

Mr Fallon trained as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen when he left Cambridge, then went to work for UBS Phillips & Drew's corporate finance department. He then worked his way up at Bower, and in 1992 became regional finance director, European Printing and Engineering, where he led a restructuring of the £300m business. Sackings, isn't it.

Brampton Moody, 47, also has a new job, but is in the middle of nowhere.

Perhaps that's being unfair to Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, a former bit of the old Soviet Union. But not much. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has just appointed Mr Brampton head of its representative office in Almaty. Kazakhstan is a huge stretch of territory slap-bang in the middle of the former Soviet land mass, stretching from the Caspian Sea in the west to Mongolia in the east, almost all of which is "unvegetated hot steppe", it says in my atlas.

The people who live there – roughly the same number as live in Greater London – have recently seen bits of it transformed into a recreation of the 19th century

event, which begins on September 21 this year and will be called "The Whitbread Round the World Race for the Volvo Trophy".

The race has been held once every four years since 1973, and Mr Johnson is confident it will "provide Volvo with unique opportunities to achieve global exposure of our brand name in situations which will enhance our positioning among Volvo's important target groups".

Earlier this year the maker of boring but safe cars announced it would no longer sponsor show-jumping events. Meanwhile Whitbread chief executive David Thomas said the decision to pull out of the famous race followed a review of corporate sponsorship and promotional activity.

"We have an immensely strong brand portfolio in leisure, drinks and hospitality but the fact of the matter is that we sell very little with the name Whitbread actually on it," he said.

After circling idly looking for a new landing spot, Peter Jones, former head of corporate Affairs at British Airways, will touch down next month at Bupa with the new title of Director of Corporate Communications.

Although airlines and healthcare have little superficially in common, both are people businesses and 48-year old Mr Jones will take care of external and internal PR, keeping Bupa's 8,500 employees informed as well as putting the case for private medicine working alongside the NHS.

Bupa is hard on the acquisition trail, gobbling up private medical facilities at every opportunity. And a warning to potential "carpetbaggers": Bupa is strongly committed to its provident status, so there is no point in taking out a private medical insurance policy or moving into a private hospital bed in the hope of another building society-style windfall.

John Wiltcock

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.6855	16.16	57.54	1000	0.5676		
Canada	2.2933	59.88	203.37	13743	32.31	89.88	
Germany	2.3699	84.83	261.25	17679	29.38	117.18	
France	7.0227	289.57	825.78	53493	78.13	329.34	
Italy	2.0973	0.2	4.2	0.7933	114.73	465.49	
Japan	160.04	98.97	289.31	127.75	32.31	82.51	
ECU	16.076	30.22	98.92	1781	14.35	46.47	
Belgium	61.307	159.63	520.50	38.73	72.74	222.24	
Netherlands	3.3433	65.39	209.42	67.12	18.15	365.35	
Ireland	1.100	4.3	12.12	13.85	9.7	19.16	
Norway	12.367	331.32	1033.68	13376	147.42	438.19	
Spain	20.068	23.1	2.6	184.73	34.73	115.91	
Sweden	13.019	249.29	787.74	7724	93.86	289.27	
Switzerland	2.4672	106.10	320.39	14838	31.1	101.33	
Australia	2.2823	10.5	30.20	1247	5.1	17.02	
Hong Kong	13.050	16.2	13.46	7247	5.6	13.15	
Malaysia	4.2203	34.51	102.14	23039	40.80	125.45	
New Zealand	2.5409	10.5	2.14	14985	7.9	21.33	
Saudi Arabia	6.2217	37.33	129.10	37506	5.8	15.19	
Singapore	2.423	49.44	153.41	14385	19.16	58.53	

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	168.98	0.9999		Nigeria	142.467	84.5000	
Austria	20.861	12.376		Oman	0.6491	0.3850	
Brazil	12.630	0.0755		Pakistan	66.473	40.495	
China	13.893	8.2430		Philippines	44.5847	24.5847	
Egypt	5.7290	3.4000		Portugal	209.689	177.91	
Finland	3.6299	2.2533		Qatar	6.6589	6.6589	
Greece	362.80	1.8850		Russia	59.002	57.700	
India	46.620	276.380		South Africa	7.709	4.5890	
Indonesia	6.0285	35.750		Taiwan	40.237	27.5500	
Kuwait	0.000	0.000		UAE	6.833	3.7635	

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; subtract from spot rate to add to spot rate.
Rate quoted low to high are at a premium; add to spot rate to add to spot rate.
*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.
Calls cost 50p per minute.

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	5.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	3.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Canada	4.50%	Belgium	5.00%		
Italy	3.00%	Prime	4.75%	Discount	5.50%	Discount	2.50%
Discount	6.25%	Discount	2.96%	Spain		Central	3.00%
Netherlands		Denmark		10-Day Repo	5.25%	Switzerland	
Advances	2.90%	Discount	3.25%	Sweden		Discount	1.00%
				Repo (Ave)	4.00%	Lombard	na

Bond Yields

Country	Yr	Yield %	10yr	Yield %	Country	Yr	Yield %	10yr	Yield %
UK	7.0%	7.21	7.25%	7.08	Netherlands	2.5%	4.8	5.75%	5.47
US	5.5%	5.16	5.16%	5.16	Spain	4.0%	4.8	5.16%	5.16
Germany	4.0%	4.4	5.50%	5.45	Italy	6.25%	5.9	6.25%	5.9
France	4.0%	4.4	5.50%	5.45	Australia	10.0%	6.225	6.25%	6.025
					Canada	4.0%	4.4	5.50%	5.45
					Japan	0.5%	0.5	0.5%	0.5
					ECU	6.0%	4.8	5.16%	5.16

Money Market Rates

Money Market Rates						
	O/Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5.6	6.1	6.7	6.7	7.1	7.1
Starling CDs	-	-	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Local Authority Deps	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Discounts (Market Deps)	6.1	6.1	-	-	-	-
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-	-	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7

Tourist Rates

E Buys	E Buys	E Buys	E Buys	E Buys	E Buys
Australia(Dollars)	2.2025	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.4185	Denmark(Dollars)	11.9600
Austria(Schillings)	20.3475	Germany(Mark)	2.8900	Norway(Krone)	11.9600
Belgium(Francs)	39.8800	Greece(Drachmas)	457.0000	Portugal(Escudos)	209.7800
Canada(Dollars)	2.2525	Hong Kong(Dollars)	12.7100	Spain(Pesetas)	166.6400
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.8485	Ireland(Pounds)	1.0700	Sweden(Kronor)	12.7350
Denmark(Dollars)	11.9600	Italy(Lira)	2036.0000	Switzerland(Francs)	2.4100
Holland(Gulden)	3.4225	Japan(Yen)	100.0000	Taiwan(Dollars)	24.070000
Finland(Marks)	8.8800	Malaysia(Ringgit)	0.0250	United States(Dollars)	1.0000

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Est/Cont	Open
3m UK Govt	114.09	114.27	114.06	114.06
3m US Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Euro Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Japan Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Canada Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Australia Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m New Zealand Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Hong Kong Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Singapore Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Malaysia Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Indonesia Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m South Africa Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Taiwan Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Korea Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Philippines Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Thailand Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Vietnam Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Laos Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Cambodia Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Myanmar Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Brunei Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m Timor Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m East Timor Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m West Timor Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m East Timor Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15
3m West Timor Govt	109.15	109.15	109.15	109.15

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement price: 4700		closing offer price		Est/Cont	Total vols
Series	4700	4750	4800	4850	
Jul	8637	5458	3285	16120	--
Aug	13583	105104	80129	59159	--
Sep	173105	145126	118150	98179	--
Oct	208121	179141	150164	126752	113181

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 missing, 7-4 Strawberry, 12-1 others

**IN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300
 in 6F**

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 (2) M Dross 5 5 12 Dope Clinton 7
 (3) B Pinner 3 8 10 T. Spence 7
 (4) R. Cunningham Brown 5 8 2 J. Galt 8
 (5) R. H. Hays 4 9 5 L. L. L. 9
 (6) J. H. Hays 8 7 13 J. Pinner 9
 (7) M Dross 9 7 12 R. Norton 5 V
 (8) J. H. Hays 4 7 12 B. Farnham 6
 (9) J. H. Hays 3 7 10 M. Adams 6 V
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Haeggman's heroics
Andy Farrell sees a Swede set the pace at Loch Lomond, page 31

sport

Jordan in slipstream
Derick Allsop on a team moving into motor-racing's elite, page 30

Biting Tyson escapes with one-year ban

Boxing
KEN JONES

A suspicion that Mike Tyson's value in professional boxing's market place would ensure escape from punitive suspension was confirmed in Las Vegas yesterday when the Nevada Athletic Commission imposed a maximum fine of \$3m (£1.8m) and revoked his licence.

It means that the former undisputed champion, who was disqualified at the end of the third round of his World Boxing Association title bout on 28 June for biting both Evander Holyfield's ears, can apply for reinstatement after a 12-month absence from the ring.

Considering that Tyson's conduct was the most outrageous seen in the modern history of a sport under constant fire from abolitionists, many are sure to look upon the ruling as an expedient compromise.

After making a public apology for his conduct last week, Tyson was not present at the hearing, and was spotted 24 hours earlier driving a red Ferrari around the streets of Greenwich village in New York.

Entering a plea of mitigation for Tyson, a Nevada lawyer, Elias Goodman, argued that until last month's contest with Holyfield Tyson's behaviour in the ring had been exemplary. "He expects to be punished," Goodman said to the commission, "but he ex-

pects the punishment to be fair."

If Tyson does choose to seek reinstatement - there is now a growing belief that he has grown disenchanted with a sport from which he has grossed in excess of \$140m since serving three years for the rape of a beauty queen - he will be required to convince the Nevada authorities that the apologies he made last week were genuine.

Tyson's reputation as a living-on-the-edge predator has always been a large part of his appeal making it likely that a third bout against Holyfield would set a record in pay-per-view television revenue.

If commercial interests, especially the effect of a Tyson fight on casino revenue in Las Vegas, did not dictate the outcome of yesterday's hearing, cynicism is understandable.

As it would have led unquestionably to a restraint of trade action by Tyson and his associates there was no possibility that the Nevada commission would impose a lifetime suspension but in view of the circumstances a ban of at least 18 months would have been more appropriate.

The clue to Tyson's future lies, I suspect, not in his promise to seek psychiatric assistance, but in contradictions evident in his utterances prior to both contests against Holyfield. The impression was that of a man confused, caught between the squalid attitude of

his cohorts and the growing influence of his wife, who is a doctor. When referring constantly to his children - "it will frighten them to see me like this," he said when pointing to the cut opened by a head butt - Tyson no longer sounded like the brutal figure who once rejoiced in the idea of splintering an opponent's nose.

It is even possible that despite a grim reputation that intimidated the majority of his opponents, Tyson has never been a natural fighting man but a bully who cannot handle the sort of rough contests that Holyfield was determined to offer him. There is nothing sure about this and time may again alter Tyson's perceptions. However, it would not be a great surprise if we have seen the last of him.

In South Africa, where Holyfield is coming towards the end of a five day tour, he issued a stern "no comment" on hearing of Tyson's punishment.

However, he has already forgiven the disgraced former champion and is likely to be happy with the sentence as long as the NAC decide to revoke Tyson's licence for longer than a year.

In a previous statement, Holyfield had said: "Most boxers only fight one time a year. He probably needs a year off to get himself better anyway. He probably needs the rest. The penalty is probably going to have to be a little more extensive than that."

NATWEST TROPHY: Sussex succeed at last as England outcast powers on



Mark Butcher prepares to dismiss Nottinghamshire's Richard Bates at The Oval yesterday. Photograph: David Ashdown.

Malcolm rampage for seven wickets

JON CULLEY

reports from Derby
Derbyshire 324-7
Northamptonshire 180
Derbyshire win by 144 runs

When these sides met at Lord's in 1981 in the first 60-over final sponsored by NatWest, an extraordinary match ended with the scores level and Derbyshire winning by losing fewer wickets. A repeat here yesterday would have required Northamptonshire, having conceded the highest score made against them in the competition, to exceed the record winning total for a side batting second, which was always an unlikely proposition.

In the event, they never had even the faintest sniff once Devon Malcolm had torn out half their batsmen for 29 by the 12th over. Half-centuries by Jeremy Snape and Tony Penberthy ensured at least that the county's record lowest total was not threatened but it was, none the less, a dismal effort from a side who had hoped to inject some meaning into a wretched season.

Malcolm, unsurprisingly named man of the match, finished with competition-best figures of 7 for 35 as Northamptonshire subsided to 180 all out in 48.1 overs. Centuries from Chris Adams and Kim Barnett, two of the players at the centre of Derbyshire's recent internal problems, had enabled their side to climb to impenetrably high ground, even after being inserted and losing two wickets inside seven overs.

The pair set aside all other distractions to play at times quite imperiously against a Northamptonshire attack that became ragged rather too quickly. Adams soon perfected his timing on a good-natured pitch and confidently reached 50 off 54 balls.

With fine shot selection and placement, he turned that into a 112-ball century that included 10 fours, its only semblance of a blemish a driven six that just beat the outstretched arm of Mohammed Akram at long-on. He and Barnett added 183 in 39 overs before Adams perished going down the pitch to Rob Bailey, the most successful Northamptonshire bowler with 3 for 55 on a day in which their pace quartet gave away 21 runs in wides.

Barnett, whose appeal against disciplinary action imposed by Derbyshire is to be heard at Lord's tomorrow, completed only his second NatWest century off 148 deliveries before a reverse sweep off John Embury came to rest in Mal Loye's grasp at backward point.

Greenfield turns on power

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Hove
Lancashire 283-6
Sussex 286-3
Sussex win by seven wickets

It was inevitable in this contest between two sides in crisis that in coming to praise one we would inevitably bury the other. That 66-1 outsiders Sussex would be the ones to wield the shovel and quietly lay the NatWest Trophy holders' season to rest, was perhaps the unlikely outcome, but one that was achieved with determination and panache.

Amazing, though it may seem, this was only Sussex's second victory since 25 May. Chasing 284 to win, they were indebted to Keith Greenfield, whose superb 129 was full of powerful strokes, particularly off

spinner Gary Yates, who conceded 73 from 10 overs.

Taken on by Sussex as a YTS boy over 10 years ago, it has taken Greenfield nine years to gain his Sussex cap and until yesterday to score his first hundred in either knockout competition. Who said that all Tory policies were all about short-term gain?

Sharing an opening stand of 85 with Bill Athey, and another of 131 with Mark Newell, Sussex were fortunate when Greenfield was dropped at extra cover by John Crawley at 134 for 2. It was hard cheese on Crawley who, in league with Ian Austin, had pulled Lancashire from 38 for 4 to a competitive total.

Having started without Wasim Akram or Neil Fairbrother, the Lancashire effort suffered further when Glenn Chapple left the field after pulling up injured in his fifth

over. They have rarely been at full strength this season, although Mike Watkinson has now returned to captain the side.

Lancashire fans, already brimful of criticism for their struggling team, did not have their mood improved when, after winning the toss, they found their side four wickets down inside 15 overs. Most glaring of the early wickets was another failure by Mike Atherton, caught at first slip by Greenfield off Vasebert Drakes for two. In 12 one-day innings for Lancashire this season, Atherton has failed to pass 25 runs 11 times.

With Graham Lloyd following, bowled padding up to Mark Robinson's loosener, and Andrew Flintoff becoming Drakes' second victim of an impressive opening spell, Lancashire looked destined for a shortened day. That was until Crawley, fortified by his 83 for England, alleviated the symptoms that have dogged his side all season. Adding 67 with Watkinson, Crawley rarely looked troubled, flicking the seamers effortlessly off his legs. When Watkinson fell for 36, he reigned back as Austin complemented the Crawley touch with his own brand of thumping drives, including a huge six over the sightscreen off leg-spinner Amer Khan.

But if the pair could not look more different in appearance, their batting gelled to produce 177 runs for the sixth wicket, the highest ever in the competition. But although it would have been fitting for Austin to join Crawley in getting to his century, it would not have changed the outcome of this match, which was Sussex's by some distance.

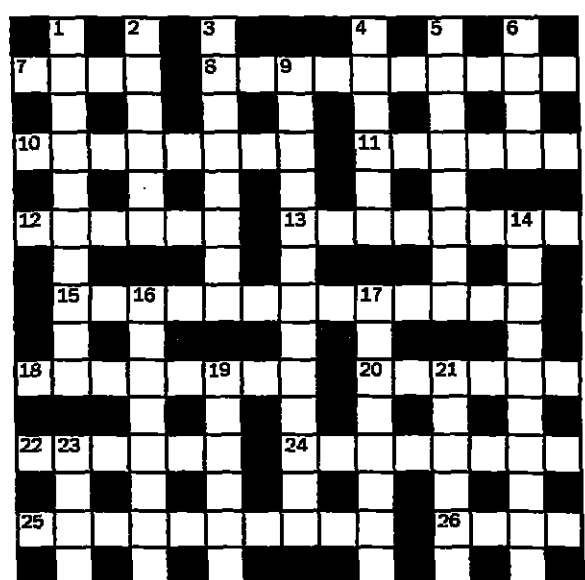
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3347, Thursday 10 July

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



MEGAPHONES LAMB
U O N N R L
ABLESSAMAN DIDD
N L V C O Y O
S BAREFOOTED
S P G M P M T
HORSESHOE PIETY
O O S E N E T P
RIVER SATELLITE
I E A S
BAROMETRICAL
R E P A V N B O
EMIT STRINGS
A Z
DOLE TRAVERSOUT

ACROSS

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- 8 Editor, alas, made hash of space-fillers? (10)
- 10 It's just a hobby for one of those in court (8)
- 11 Catch, chappie realised (6)
- 12 Girl's skirting seedy quarter (6)
- 13 Symbol of bad player, following Spade with Diamond (8)
- 15 Due to be cast with urgent RADA student (13)
- 18 Ancient Law cut on summit? That's going back (8)

DOWN

- 20 Consideration has saint's touch (6)
- 22 Snow-white cold precipitation (6)
- 24 Master's defeated (8)
- 25 Vessels, eroded, in quiet waterways (10)
- 26 Bit of a Patriot (American) (4)
- 1 One third of nuclear waste outside is source of concern (10)
- 2 A roll, it's said, or a petition (6)
- 3 Nickel stored in one container or another (8)
- 4 Those with brains managed to infiltrate agents (6)

5 Plant I water is spreading (8)

- 6 Fellow with Cockney's fish paste (4)
- 9 Certainly in favour over developing plate? (8,5)
- 14 One of those food pests - the mice, see - getting active (10)
- 16 Scooting? Parent's upset eating into joint (8)
- 17 Outstanding, grabbing game and French title (8)
- 19 Balance deposited in post office quickly (6)
- 21 Kick-start? (6)
- 23 Like marble, chiselled, about Rodin's first (4)

Charlie's Restaurant on menu for Scots

Football
PHIL SHAW

There are no easy matches in European football, to coin a phrase, but yesterday's draw for the preliminary stages of the three club competitions certainly erred on the side of generosity to the Scottish game. Rangers, Celtic and Dundee United were paired respectively with amateurs from the Faroe Islands, a team of part-timers from Cardiff and the champions of Andorra, known in that "country" as the Real Madrid Supporters' Club of Charlie's Restaurant.

In contrast, Newcastle must

overcome opponents from the former Yugoslavia to reach the lucrative group stage of the Champions' League, while Barry Kohn and Crusaders face arduous and, in all probability, fruitless trips to the old Soviet Union.

For Rangers, who meet the great unpronounceables of Gota Introtarfelag, the main concern is that having to complete their Champions' League qualifier before the end of July allows scant time for their new, virtually Scot-free side to gel.

In goal for the Faroes should be Jens Martin Knudsen, who achieved minor celebrity for wearing a bobble hat in internationals. Nevertheless,

Rangers will treat them with respect. "The stakes are too high not to approach the tie properly," the manager, Walter Smith, said. "We should get through to face Gothenburg, but thinking ahead is always a danger."

In the UEFA Cup, Celtic make their first trip to Wales to take on Inter Cabletel. The League of Wales runners-up are managed by the former Scotland keeper George Wood, who went into cliché overdrive on hearing the news. "We'll give 110 per cent... I'll tell them to go out and enjoy themselves... It's a learning process."

Inter, a park side until 1990, are investigating the possibi-

ty of hiring Ninian Park or Cardiff rugby club's ground. They may have to tackle Celtic without their top scorer, Paul Burrows, who is considering a move to Carmarthen, but they can take heart from Barry's performance in restricting Aberdeen to a 6-4 aggregate last autumn.

Dundee United's opponents are, in their official guise, called Club Esportiu Principat. Whether they comprise waiters, chefs or customers of the aforementioned Charlie's is unclear, but they should be easy meat even for a club whose last European venture ended in defeat by the little-known Tatra Presov, of Slovakia, in 1994.

Newcastle, who yesterday unveiled a navy, orange and green strip that they will wear in European away fixtures, do not have to play until mid-August. Kenny Dalglish, the manager, thus has the opportunity to watch Partizan Belgrade play Croatia (formerly Dinamo) Zagreb, who collide over two legs this month for the first time since before the war, six years ago.

The 16 defeated teams from the second qualifying phase of the Champions' League are entered in the UEFA Cup, raising the prospect of an Old Firm meeting.

European draw, Digest More football, page 31



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